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JOHN BULL

Vol. XII. No. 299 | SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24, 1912. | ONE PENNY

(Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.)

For meaning of this No. see Page ii. of cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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4TH

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AND
Lady's Bishop Sleeve.

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FOOTBALL VOUCHER
FEBRUARY 24, 1912.
See page iii. of cover.

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The following claims have been received for our issues of January 13th and January 20th, 1912:—

D. W. DAVIES, 11, Grangetown, Cardigan. No. 256474. 13th January, 1912.
A. E. RIDDIFORD, 28, York Place, Edinburgh. No. 31306. 20th January, 1912.
FREDK. BRIGDEN, 9, Boyle Road, Tooting, S.W. No. 171150. 20th January, 1912.

The following are the fifty Numbers for our issue of January 27th, 1912:—

2092	138069	340914	488862	716866
8014	166448	352186	501246	724288
19742	200015	376632	521594	734615
26417	223951	387070	535887	749497
50321	232934	394764	565153	754849
63491	246010	407444	594620	819971
86574	252856	418947	606626	830916
91097	293566	440914	630513	844948
104516	316852	457495	663946	850234
127132	321018	477199	675802	850421

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED MARCH 23RD (PUBLISHED MARCH 21ST).

The John Bull League.

OBJECTS: To Stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness; to abolish Cranks and Killjoys; to Create a Robust and Self-reliant Public Opinion; and to Promote a Common Sense Business Government for a Common Sense Business People.

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Vol. XII. No. 299. Week ending Saturday, February 24th, 1912. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, at 93, Long Acre, London, W.C., according to whether they relate to Editorial or Business matters.
All editorial inquiries MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.

The John Bull League.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A POPULAR WHIST DRIVE
WILL BE HELD AT THE
ASSEMBLY ROOMS, HARDMAN STREET,
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26th.

:: GOOD PRIZES. ::
DOORS OPEN 7 O'CLOCK. COMMENCE 7.45 SHARP.

Tickets (price 1s. 6d. each, including refreshments) may be obtained from Mr. G. S. Haines, 48, Woodlands Road, Aigburth.

ABERDEEN BRANCH.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28th.
JOHN BULL LEAGUE NIGHT AT THE TIVOLI MUSIC HALL. (Second House, 9 p.m.)

The 1/- Stalls for this Performance have been secured by THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

Tickets to be procured only of Mr. Geo. Dickie, Bookseller, 88, Union St., Mr. Peter Christie, Hairdresser, 10, Menzies Road, or the Local Secretary, Mr. A. T. Fairweather, 58, Elmbank Terrace, Nittybrewster.

Apply early (not later than 27th inst.).

1/- NO BOOKING FEE. 1/-

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A GRAND SMOKING CONCERT
WILL BE HELD AT THE
GOODMAN ARMS HOTEL, WHITEHALL ROAD,
TUESDAY, MARCH 5th, at 8 p.m.
Chairman, Reginald Knight, Esq.
:: ADMISSION FREE. ::

BRISTOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE
WILL BE HELD AT THE
QUEEN'S HOTEL, CLIFTON,
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6th, 1912.

COMMENCE 7.45 P.M. :: DANCING TILL 11.30 P.M.

Tickets for Whist Drive and Dance (price 1s., including refreshments) may be obtained from the Queen's Hotel, or from the Hon. Branch Secretary, Mr. W. P. Frankham, The College, Westbury-on-Trym.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

The Editor's Note.

Next week I submit myself to Public Examination, and I shall be obliged if any reader of this journal, or any acquaintance of any reader, who has ever had a business transaction with me in respect of which he feels aggrieved, or who knows, or thinks he knows, anything detrimental to my commercial probity, will communicate with the Senior Official Receiver, Carey Street, London, whose duty it will be to bring the matter to the notice of the Court. Let him do this—or for ever hold his peace.

A Dull Start.

Those who looked for an exciting start to the new session must have been sorely disappointed. After the usual stilted performance of the two young men who moved and seconded the Address, we had a typical Party speech by each of the leaders of the two Front Benches—the sum total of which was "You're another"—and then "the general debate" collapsed, and the House adjourned soon after six o'clock! Next day it reassembled to listen to the dreary drivel of Ramsay Macdonald on industrial unrest. Just imagine the Labour Party—the *Labour* Party—being "led" by a little Scotch school-teacher! Of course, Mr. John Robertson—the once aggressive agnostic—having assumed office, poured cold water upon the "extreme" doctrines of his late colleague below the gangway. Soon we shall see him defending the Welsh Church.

The Ministerial Changes.

We are not enamoured of Mr. McKinnon Wood, but, after all, he has had business experience, and, in any case, he must be an improvement on Lord Pentland, who was jockeyed up to the Lords. But Mr. Masterman as Secretary to the Treasury! What on earth this oleaginous youth knows about finance, beyond the *Daily News* scale of payment to contributors, is a mystery. Still, it is something to have got him away from the Home Office. He won't have the opportunity for quite so much whitewashing in his new post. By the way, how lucky it is, for him, that he has not to seek re-election.

The German "Entente."

The more Lord Haldane's recent visit is "explained," the clearer it becomes that he was fairly "spoofed." We wonder, by the way, if, in course of conversation with the Kaiser, he casually asked whether the sudden seizure by Italy of Tripoli had anything to do with certain negotiations with Turkey which were pending at that time for the cession of the port to Germany!

Counsel's Privileges.

We have never known a worse case of abuse of the privileges of counsel than that in which a lady money-lender recently sued the acceptor of a bill of exchange. The counsel was Mr. Willoughby Williams, and we do not hesitate to say that his conduct was unworthy of any self-respecting member of the Bar. Not only did he hurl charges of fraud broadcast at one who was precluded from either refuting or protesting against them, but he deliberately opened a case which his client absolutely and resolutely declined to support in the witness-box. This is one of the matters on which the *Lay Lawyer* will have something to say.

The Hooley Case.

Do not be surprised at a dramatic development—or at the early release of Mr. Hooley. There is much behind the case which has not yet come out, but which may be made public any day now.

To Turn or Not to Turn.

Why all this palaver about political turncoats? The Party atmosphere of late has been full of allegations and counter-allegations. What if a man does turn his coat? There is nothing necessarily wrong in coat-turning. On the contrary, a change in a man's opinions more often than not indicates a virile, active mind, which is certainly better than the mental stagnation which characterises the average Party politician. It is no more reasonable to suggest that a man should hold the same views for half-a-century than it would be to expect him to travel by stage coach when an express train is available. If a man's convictions change he would be a craven if he dared not announce the fact. Of course, we are speaking of a real change of opinion. The mere crossing over from one Party to the other is more often merely a change of tactics.

A Hospital Scandal.

From Kingston-on-Thames comes a disquieting report concerning accommodation for cases of infectious disease. At an inquest on a little girl who died from diphtheria at the local cottage hospital, a medical witness stated that the borough, with a population of over 40,000, possessed no isolation accommodation of its own. There was an arrangement with a neighbouring local authority whereby it could have ten beds in the hospital there, if possible, but if those beds were already occupied epidemic patients in Kingston would have to be treated in their own homes. It is not surprising that after hearing such a statement the jury added a rider to their verdict to the effect that isolation hospital accommodation of some sort should be provided in the borough. We await an announcement as to what the authorities propose to do.

The Lord Mayor on Ginger Pop.

The aged medico who is Lord Mayor this year showed a bright gleam of intelligence the other day, and it is possible that we may yet get to like him. He was presiding at the Mansion House over a conference of medical men on the subject of alcohol in relation to business, and after the usual dreary reiteration of the dangers of beer he rose and remarked that one of the greatest steps towards the abolition of intemperance would be the introduction of a non-alcoholic substitute. But it can't be done—any more than you can find a substitute for meat. Why can't these faddists face the fact that intemperance, not the reasonable use of alcohol, is the evil?

Black Jack.

Whatever may be the merits of Jack Johnson as a fighter, he does not encourage us to think much of him as a sportsman. Not content with tearing about the country like a madman in huge high-powered motor-cars and persistently ignoring his liability to make good damage caused by his reckless driving, he shows an utter incompétence to appreciate the obligations of contracts entered into. Damages for £1,500 have just been awarded against him for failing to appear at Blackburn, Bradford, and Burnley music-halls. English enthusiasts in the noble art have always received the big black in the most sporting spirit, but if he goes on like this he will become unpopular.

"Hold Fast."

The veteran cadger, G. W. Linnecar, who runs what he terms the "Mansion House" Mission—at Brixton—is again on the warpath whining for half-crowns. In his old age he seems to have developed a sense of humour, for his adopted motto, printed on his 1912 appeal, is "Hold fast till I come." We shall be pleased if Linnecar will call upon us with a certified copy of his latest accounts and a report of his work. In the meantime we shall hold fast.

The Case of Albert Reeves.

Following our recent note on the case of Albert Reeves, convicted of murder, the jury of Norfolk dumplings at Norwich have had their answer. Precisely as we predicted, Reeves has been reprieved. It will be remembered that the prisoner resolutely resisted the allegation that he was insane when he murdered his infant son to save him from "moral taint," insisted on pleading guilty despite the clearest evidence that he was mad, brought a doctor into court to prove that he was sane, but was nevertheless declared by the jury to be capable of pleading, and brought in guilty without being tried on the facts at all. To have allowed Reeves to go to the scaffold would have been equivalent to the judicial murder of a lunatic by lunatics.

The Impotent Censor.

Mr. Israel Zangwill's banned play, "The Next Religion," is to be issued in book form at an early date. So what was the use of censoring it? Apart from the fact that the majority of plays are more effective when acted than when read, the censor's bar in this instance is quite unavailing. Indeed, the fact that the play was censored will doubtless give a fillip to the circulation of the book. Any writer desiring to assure an advertisement in advance has but to adopt the "play" form of work, handling his subject in such a way as to guarantee its being banned, and send it to the Censor. Struggling authors, please note.

Sheringham's Snobs and the Territorials.

The snob loves the brave British youths who hearken to their country's call and fit themselves to repel the invader. But they must not fit themselves anywhere in his vicinity. The suggestion that 5,000 Territorials would pollute the air of Sheringham by their presence was enough to drive the tin gods of the village frantic. Whatever morals Sheringham possessed would be ruined; some of the Territorial fiends might smile, or even wink, at Sheringham's maidens. Major-General Hamilton has, however, told the unpatriotic Pecksniffs that "Territorials should be encouraged rather than branded as outcasts." How many of the Sheringham residents have done *their* "duty to their country"?

Yorkshire Miners and Business.

As an illustration of the waste of money and energy in the Yorkshire Miners' Association, a reader sends us the "Sixth Ballot Form for the Position of Junior General and Corresponding Secretary." How many ballots do the Association propose to have before they appoint the office-boy? By the way, our correspondent, himself a miner, "respectfully requests" us "to try and abolish property in land." We are sorry to disappoint him, but when we explain matters he will see our position is delicate. We have a bit of our own.

Missing Brighton Man.

We have information that a Brighton clerk, who until quite recently resided with a married sister, has been missing for a fortnight. He left his employ with the idea of going to London on business. It is, however, believed that he is still in Brighton, and there is reason to suspect that he is being detained in a certain house in that town. His employer informs us that the missing man had in his possession a sum of money, but the police, who have been appealed to in the matter, say that they are unable to search the house referred to. If this should meet the eye of any person who has knowledge of such forcible detention, we shall be glad to hear from him.

SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS.

Having informed Mr. Gerald du Maurier, on his personal enquiry, what the special qualifications of a critic are, we now take leave to tell him what the special qualifications of a modern actor are. They consist in the ability to place his hands in his pocket, lean up against a pianoforte, and smoke a cigarette. If Mr. du Maurier wishes to know what the special qualifications of anybody else are for doing anything, will he kindly apply to the office boy at this address?

JOURNALISTIC GULLIBILITY.

Before us is a copy of a publication called the *Cleveland Standard*, the proprietor of which, we are told, is one of the leaders at a local little Bethel. In the issue of February 3 are two columns of letters, with an editorial introduction, headed "Sunday Golf. Middlesboro' says No. Redcar People Up in Arms. Wholesale Denunciation." On the same page is a column headed, "Town and Country Jottings. What we Hear," the second paragraph reading, "That ten skulls have been unearthed at Huntcliff, Saltburn, and a vase has also been found at the same place, the latter containing the following words, '*Itis a . . . . bigone. . . .*'" The dots in the alleged Latin quotation are ours, introduced to interrupt the spelling out of a vulgar old schoolboy joke, which no decent journal would print. If we may venture a word of advice to our religious friend, it is that he should trouble his soul less about Sunday golf and more about what goes into his paper. A week later the *Burnley Gazette* fell into the same trap, the introduction of the sorry jest being the statement that "several skulls have been unearthed during recent excavations near Roggerham." Then follows an account of a marvellous urn, being the same lettering.

TROUBLE AT GLASGAE.

There has been an awfu' row in the Glasgow City Council, the illustrious members endeavouring to rival the amenities of Dublin. From the short report which has come our way it appears that the Council sat for four hours raising hair and dust about a proposal to retire the City Engineer, the Chief Librarian, the Gas and Electricity Treasurer, and the Superintendent of Museums and Art Galleries—undoubtedly a wholesale unloading of official goods. "The suspension of two members of the Corporation was moved," says the reporter, "and another member referred to a colleague as a d——d nuisance." That anybody should become a nuisance while endeavouring to perform his duties as a member of the Glasgow Council is most regrettable, but may we ask the accuser how he knows his colleague is damned? That is a question for the Kirk, and not the Council, to determine.

BREAD AND JUSTICE AT CHICHESTER.

Does the Rev. Chancellor H. M. Davey, sitting on the County Bench at Chichester, imagine that the law obliges him to give a man seven days in gaol for begging? Apparently he does, for the other morning he sentenced two men to that punishment for the offence. "I think you are very cruel" (and so do we), said one of the men, "to give me seven days' hard labour for asking for a bit of food." "Such is the law," icily commented the holy magistrate. But of course he is quite wrong. He was no more obliged to give those men so monstrous a sentence—and it would be monstrous even if the law obliged it—for doing what, in any system of Christian ethics, would be no offence at all, than he is to eat thistles. Not only could he have let off the men, but he could have given them a shilling for pity—out of his own pocket. He should know the difference between what a magistrate—or a parson—*may* do, and what he *must*.

HULL'S MAGISTERIAL SAMARITAN.

Hats off to Mr. Halkett, the Hull Stipendiary. A little while since, a man brought before him for stealing a halibut from the fish dock pleaded that he was tempted by his desperate need, his four motherless children being starving. Did Mr. Halkett tell this poor devil that his children being without food or fire was no excuse for stealing other people's fish, and then sentence him to three months' with hard labour? He did not. He remanded him for a day, sent a policeman to enquire, and when the officer reported that "there was not a scrap of food nor any coal in the house, and the four children were literally starving," he ordered that 7s. 6d. was to be given at once from the poor box, that the two elder children were to be supplied with clogs, that the house was to be replenished with food and fuel, made arrangements for a local club to give the children "at least one meal a day," let the prisoner off under the Probation Act, told the Probation officer to do his best to get work for him, and wound up with these good words, "I am sorry for you, and if ever you should again fall into similar difficulties come and see me, and I will do what I can for you." Now, what says the Rev. Chancellor Davey, of the Chichester Bench?

A DELUSION AND A SNARE.

Recently the Hon. J. H. Turner, Agent-General of British Columbia, received from his Government, and caused to be published in England, a statement that there was a great demand for labourers and mechanics. Railway contractors, it was added, had difficulty in securing men, while ten million acres had been reserved for settlers, available for pre-emption to the extent of 160 acres for each adult. The statements in that cablegram were a delusion and a snare.

THE TRUTH.

At the time the cable was sent to Mr. Turner, so far as mechanics were concerned there was not any shortage of men except in the case of firms involved in labour disputes; the contractors could get all the hands they wanted, and if men were not rushing to the railways it was because of the low wages and the conditions of employment; whilst, as for the alleged ten million acres, most of the land is inaccessible and much of it impossible. And now we read of a procession of 700 unemployed parading the streets of Vancouver, many of them, it may be, induced to go to Canada on the tarradiddle of such a cablegram as this one, backed up by the blandishments of the emigration agents. Canada wants rough-it agriculturists *with capital*. Of labourers, artisans and clerks she has enough and to spare.

CANADIAN WITNESS.

An Ottawa reader tells us that in 1910 he and his wife were living in Carlisle, and having determined to try their fortune in Canada, communicated with the Salvation Army captain at Liverpool. Arrived at Quebec, they were given the address of a farmer about 310 miles away, the Salvation Enquiry Office saying he wanted a man and wife. At the end of one-and-a-half days' journey and a four mile walk, they landed at the place, only to find that the farmer did not want a married couple at all. A week previous, the farmer said, the Salvation Army had sent another English couple on the same fool's errand. "This is the way the Salvation Army are treating a great many emigrants who trust them," continues this Ottawa reader. "Besides getting a bounty on every emigrant brought into Canada, the Salvation Army make money out of everybody who entrusts them with funds to send over, as, though the face value of a sovereign is 4 dollars 80 cents, the bank rate of exchange is 4 dollars 86 cents." Let experience teach.

Postal Business in Ashton.

Somebody ought to stir up the postal department in Ashton-in-Makerfield, which is in Lancashire. The grumbling of about 28,000 inhabitants seems to range over the whole field of Post Office operations. "Of all the antiquated, unbusiness-like Post Offices I have ever seen," says a reader, "that of Ashton-in-Makerfield takes the whole lot for a long ta-ta." His syntax is unorthodox, but Ashton-in-Makerfield will understand.

"Simplified Spelling."

"A former constituent" says he is simply astounded at the view we take of "simplified" spelling, as it is most woefully miscalled, but if our former constituent had remained with us he would not by this time be astounded at the view we take of anything. Mr. Sydney, the Secretary of the Simplified Spelling Society, also writes: "Their iz, let me ashuur yu, sur, a definit sceem. It iz draun up to banish caios, not tu maic it. Within the naro prizon-hous ov our prezent alfebet a plan haz been devizd whairbi much ov the oeld yuesaij is cept—to pleez John Bull, the granfaather or granmuther, and whairbi tu the deliet ov hiz granchildren—the burden ov lurning tu spel iz roeld awai." In that case it may roll. That, at any rate, is what we say. What our printer's reader said when we showed him that letter is not printable in ordinary spelling. In its "simplified" form it might pass for Welsh.

The Other Side of the Case.

Mr. Marsh, of the North London Christian Evidence League, sends us a long letter on our remark with reference to the recent prosecution of Messrs. Gott and Stewart: "Our own desire is to respect every man's honest belief, but we cannot approve of imprisonment for bad taste." Mr. Marsh thinks the question is not one of bad taste at all, but, in regard to Gott, a case of publishing such filthy and disgusting comments on the Scriptural text that no newspaper, let it take what theological views it will, would degrade itself by printing them, even for the public to judge what Gott's offence really was and is. We agree with Mr. Marsh so far as to say that we should not care to publish them ourselves—which proves that it *is* a matter of taste—and, let us also add, we have never been able to understand what purpose is served by such methods of "theological" controversy—unless it be on the Salvation Army principle of speaking in a language understood by the common people. If Gott's remarks were indecent, the common law was strong enough to punish him without resuscitating a mummified statute.

Sherborne's Fire Alarm.

The Sherborne District Council have posted the following public notice on their fire alarm: "In Case of Fire Pull Open Door, Turn Handle for One Minute, Go to Fire Station, Newland, and wait for Fireman. Penalty for Improper Use, £5." As Newland is twenty minutes' walk from the alarm, Sherborne seems likely to go to blazes one of these days before the fireman arrives on the scene of the conflagration. Cannot the District Council somehow arrange for an electric wire to be fastened to the fireman's leg, so that when somebody touches a button on the alarm at Sherborne the *Newland Argus* will know it is time to wake up? The Council had better consult their Electrical Engineer.

Cause and Effect?

In one of our recent issues we announced a certain gentleman as the holder of a winning number in our weekly Ballot Scheme—and a few days later read in a local paper that an individual of this name and address was summoned for deserting his wife. The lady explained that she had seen nothing of him for ten years, and had only just discovered his address. We must be more careful about these numbers in future.

A Llanfair Horse Case.

Mr. T. J. Roberts, the Mayor, and Dr. J. Medwyn Hughes were the magistrates when a man called Williams, employed at Garthgynan Farm, Llanfair, was charged with horrible cruelty to a horse. There are degrees of horror in these horse cruelty cases, as our readers well know; they shall judge for themselves the degree in this one. While under the influence of "a glass or two," Williams attacked the poor beast, a valuable gelding, with a manure hook, inflicting on it not less than 23 punctured wounds, some of them "a finger deep," so that it died in agony the same night. Questioned by the Bench, "prisoner had nothing to say," and all that could be said for him, we imagine, was said by his employer, who gave him a three years' character. But is this an answer to such fiendish conduct? Apparently the Llanfair magistrates thought so, for though the Chairman described the offence as "cruel, cowardly and inhuman, the act really of a madman," they fined him only £3 and costs, and told him to "consider himself lucky." Precisely. We wonder what that horse, if it had a soul, now thinks of mankind!

A Library Feud.

Wimbledon and Merton are to all intents and purposes one and the same locality, though Wimbledon has become a borough and Merton is an urban district. It is very difficult to tell at times which you are in. The Wimbledonians will have no dealings with the Mertonians. The haughty residents on the hill doubtless regard Merton as a foul excrescence on their aristocratic body. The Mertonians, on the other hand, have no particular objection to the Wimbledonians (provided they don't "come it" too much), and spend a lot of their money in Wimbledon shops. Now Wimbledon has a library and Merton has none. For years the Mertonians used this library, but they can no longer do so, the Wimbledon Council having decided that it is for the use of residents in the borough only. They are naturally sore about it, seeing that they must now go to the Croydon Library, about eight miles away. Oh, for Business Local Government!

Llandyssilian Foolery.

In common with some other District, and even Borough, Councils we know, the Llandyssil District Council appear to go through a lot of most exasperating foolery in respect of plans presented for their approval. Recently a certain Cardiganshire owner submitted the plan of a homestead he was providing free of extra rent, the covering letter stating that if any alterations were desired the drawing would be revised. The Medical Officer of the Council suggested certain amendments, and a revised plan carrying them out was submitted. Then the Inspector of the Council appeared on the scene, promptly condemned the whole thing, and demanded a lot of expensive alterations—and if the owner builds without them he builds at his peril. Surely this is not encouraging landowners to put the people of the soil into better homes?

The Rev. Chas. Voysey on Party.

"The principle of Party politics by which we are supposed to govern ourselves in a country always boastful of its liberty and free institutions is a mockery fit to make angels weep, and sensible men to ridicule with all the scorn they can summon. Even the members of a Cabinet under the conditions of Party now prevailing have no independent liberty at all, but are simply slaves to expediency. The wonder is that any righteous thing has ever been done at all under such a profoundly wrong and stupid system. Under Party government the foes of England have become, more than once, its rulers."

A CONTRAST.

Nobody can justly quarrel with Mr. Justice Phillimore's conduct of the Hooley trial, or with the sentence which he passed, having regard to the jury's verdict. But we have before us the report of a case, heard before the same Judge last October, in which a moneylender sued Lord Torrington on a promissory note, and this is what we read: "Giving judgment for the plaintiff, Mr. Justice Phillimore called attention to an affidavit sworn by Lord Torrington in which he said he signed the promissory note without reading it. He had now admitted reading it, *but this should be a warning to him.*" There may be a distinction in law between obtaining money and seeking to avoid payment by means of a false oath or declaration, but in each case there is the offence of perjury—always, of course, assuming wilful misstatement. We congratulate Lord Torrington.

THE CENSOR.

How long does the Government intend to permit this ponderous foolery of the stage Censor? Why, in the name of Colney Hatch, should an ornamental jack-in-office like the Lord Chamberlain, assisted by an inflated subordinate, and peradventure the office charwoman, prescribe the plays the public shall see? The censorship as it stands is simply an official combination of insult and impudence, imbecility and outrage. Imagine grown-up people asking the Lord Chamberlain what they may see. And now we are to ask the policeman what we may read!

THE FUN BEGINS.

Belfast has started the civil war. Rotten eggs have been thrown at Lord Pirrie and huge hunks of dead cat are now being imported for the reception of Sir Edward Carson.

DEVOTION TO DUTY.

A captain, having paid off his crew at Plymouth, was suddenly ordered to refit for sea. Meeting one of his tars, with a girl on his arm and a dog at his side, he asked, "Could you be ready for sea again in a fortnight?" To which Jack replied: "Well, sir, you see, my money will last me a month, but to oblige you, sir, I'll have *two* girls and *two* dogs."

WHAT WE MAY EXPECT SOON.

L.C.C. OFFICIAL: "SO YOU'VE COME AFTER THE JOB OF CUSTMAN?"
"YES, SIR."
"WHAT RELIGION ARE YOU?"

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For stating, in its report of the match between the West Bromwich Albion and Newcastle United football clubs, that: "*The weather was ideal when Hibbert* KICKED 20,000 SPECTATORS,"

IRELAND'S SATURDAY NIGHT (Belfast)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in its report of proceedings by the Aberavon County Police, that: "*Robert Reid, Gelly Street, Abergwynfi, for not having* A COLLAR WITH HIS NAME AND ADDRESS ON, *was fined* 2s. *and costs,*"

THE MID-GLAMORGAN HERALD (Swansea)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, (according to the "Bolton Evening News"), at a meeting held at the Prince's Theatre, Horwich, that he was "an Irishman, and was OPPOSED *to Home Rule, and he would fight* FOR *it,"*.

MR. R. BUCHANAN
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For publishing an article stating that, "If we CLOSE *our eyes and* LOOK *at this print from a trifling distance we* SEE *that it has no pattern,"*

PHOTOGRAPHY
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in the issue of the "Bargoed Journal" dated DECEMBER 14TH, 1911: "*Dryness of the Throat. This is a very common ailment just now, caused by the* HOT WEATHER. *Whenever you feel it coming on drink a glass of 'Welsh Hills' Lemonade, to refresh you and keep you* COOL,"

MESSRS. THOMAS AND EVANS
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in "The Policy": "The New Policies embrace all the benefits of the 'Red Cross' Policy AND MANY ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGES. *It is simply a change of name—* EVERYTHING ELSE REMAINING EXACTLY AS BEFORE,"

THE "WHITE CROSS" INSURANCE ASSOCIATION (1, Cornhill, London, E.C.)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in a serial story published in the "Nottinghamshire Guardian," that: "The little round table, gleaming with BLACK *napery and silver, had a huge copper bowl in the centre,"*

MR. GUY THORNE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in a report of Mr. Churchill's speech on February 9th on the Navy, that he "warned Foreign Powers of our 'inflexible determination' to maintain our position. Our policy was ' WORDS, *not* DEEDS,' "

THE EVENING DISPATCH (Birmingham)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "A tramcar which was DESCENDING *a steep hill at Mansfield this morning suddenly commenced to run* BACKWARDS,"

THE MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

We give 2s. 6d. *to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Entrants for this competition are reminded that "Biscuits" are not awarded for mere misprints, unless of a humorous or extraordinary nature. Should the same "Biscuit" be forwarded by more than one competitor, preference will be given to the reader whose letter is first opened. No coupons are required. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue.*

HOW I WOULD STOP THE STRIKE.

WHAT A BUSINESS GOVERNMENT WOULD DO—AND DO AT ONCE.

BY HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

I am often asked, apropos of my Business Government campaign, what I would do, different from the action of the Party machine, in any given national emergency. Sometimes I have taken the naval question by way of illustration—as I did last week in the article, "Stop Germany *Now*." At others, I have instanced the Fiscal controversy, pointing out that one trade's meat may be another trade's poison, and explaining how a real Board of Trade—representative of both Capital and Labour—would make short work of Cobden and Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill, and would apply commercial principles to the exigencies of any given industry, or to the *abuse* by any foreign country of the freedom of our ports. In the same way, I have indicated various sources of revenue which a Business Government would tap—such, for example, as the dormant balances and unclaimed securities in the hands of the bankers. And so I could go on, over the whole field of government, pointing out, at almost every turn, how the nation might, under a Business administration, get better value for less money, more money with less hardship to the taxpayer, and better trade all round.

But to-day I am concerned with the grave menace of the Coal Strike. Readers of this journal do not need reminding that for months past I have warned the Government of what is coming. I have been called an alarmist and a sensational journalist—epithets so mild in comparison with others which have been hurled at me of late that I have been able to bear them with equanimity. I have gone further, and predicted an Industrial Revolution during the present year—*and I predict it still.* For Parliament, as at present constituted, is a broken reed—and I can appreciate the fact that a strong man of capital like Mr. D. A. Thomas, and a sagacious man of labour like Mr. Burt, both ridicule the notion of Government intervention. It is quite useless for the *Daily Mail* to protest that "The Government must stop the strike." *We have no Government*, and have not had one ever since the present Party system came into full play. I use the word "play" deliberately. It is all play. Do you remember the observation of the shrewd Mr. Labouchere, when he gathered a band of Party "leaders" round his table in an endeavour to adjust their differences?—"*What a lot of babies they are!*" And, believe me, whilst the affairs of the country are left in the hands of Party hacks—lawyers, book-worms, philosophers, and the rest of them—Civilisation and Order will be separated from Anarchy and Chaos by a barrier so frail that at any moment it may collapse. It is in danger of collapsing now.

As I write, I have just read a speech by Sir Edward Grey, in which, after platitudinising as to the far-reaching effects of a Coal Strike, he suddenly pulls himself up with the remark that it might be dangerous to "talk in public" about the matter, but that much may be done by "talking in private." And this sapient contribution to the solution of the problem was received with "loud cheers." He ought to have been laughed off the platform! I read, too, that one of the Labour M.P.'s has been telling his audience that a secret conference is taking place, but that nothing must be said, on either side, to anybody whilst it is going on. The audience said "Hear, hear"!

An Opportunity for Peace.

Now let me tell you what a Business Government would do: It would pass a short Act—getting it through in three days—calling upon the men, on the one hand, and the employers, on the other, to nominate, within a week, an equal number of delegates, perhaps half-a-dozen. Those delegates would then be summoned to the Board of Trade—summoned under the provisions of the Act and obliged to attend. They would then state their respective cases—a shorthand note being taken of the proceedings. In the first instance, each side would state its case separately and alone. Then the case of each would be submitted to the other, for observations and criticism. The Board (the *real* Board of Trade, I mean—not the Archbishop of Canterbury and the "Speaker of the Irish Parliament") would then consider the two statements, as returned by the respective sides after mutual criticism, and would address a Memorandum to each, with a Suggestion for Settlement. Both parties would then meet, under the chairmanship of the President (who would *not* be a lawyer) and discuss the Memorandum. If they then came to an agreement it would be embodied in a Treaty of Settlement, the breach of which (under the terms of the Act) would be punishable by imprisonment and heavy fines in the case of the employers (the fines going to the men) and imprisonment for the men.

In Case of War.

So far so good. But if they did *not* agree? That is just where the Business Government would come in. The Board of Trade proceedings would be printed and issued as a Parliamentary paper, which would "lie upon the table" for seven days. During that period it would be open for either party to the dispute to ask for a further Conference at the Board of Trade—in which case the other party would be bound to come. But at the end of the seven days Parliament would have had time to master all the points of the dispute, and on the eighth day the delegates would be summoned to the Bar of the House of Commons to state their case, by either themselves or counsel; and then, after full discussion by the House, the question would be put: "That the Suggestion for Settlement as submitted by the Board of Trade (or as amended) be adopted *and enforced.*" Seven days would then be allowed for the resumption of work, *during which period every colliery would be placed under military guard* (no nonsense about civilian forces). If at the expiration of the last period the owners refused to accept the terms settled by Parliament, then the men would be called back to work and the coal won would be impounded for the payment of the agreed scale of wages. If, on the other hand, the men refused to come back, the Officer Commanding would have power to arrest them and treat them in every respect as Deserters. And every man who by voice or pen aided and abetted either the men or the owners to disobey Parliament's decree, would be guilty of High Treason.

That is a rough outline of what would be done under a Business Government. The scheme is absolutely impartial. It affords ample opportunity for discussion and mutual accommodation. It gives time for re-consideration even after the door is closed. It provides for an appeal to the highest court in the land—the High Court of Parliament. It provides for amendment by that tribunal, after hearing both sides—and, finally, it asserts the inviolable supremacy of the Law—backed up, if necessary, by the armed forces of the Crown. That is civilised democracy, as distinguished from brute power, on the one hand, and brutal plutocracy, on the other. It is sane Liberty, as distinguished from mad Licence. It is Law and Order. It is GOVERNMENT.

THE SANDRINGHAM RECTORIAL SCANDAL.

CHURCH PRESS CONSPIRACY.

BY A CLERGYMAN.

I read with much satisfaction your outspoken comments on this disgraceful affair, and I was particularly struck *ad hoc* with what you subsequently wrote as to the apparent conspiracy of silence entered into by the *Daily News* and certain other papers in reference to the Gladstone League Secretary's case.

When the announcement was made of the cancellation of the appointments of the Rev. F. P. Farrar in November, the *Guardian* and the *Church Times* (which I suppose are reckoned as the two leading Church of England newspapers) each contented itself with a bald statement of the fact, and added not another word until January 26th, when the *Guardian* stated in three lines that the Bishop of Norwich had declared, under the provisions of the Clergy Discipline Act, the Rev. F. P. Farrar, late Rector of Sandringham, to be incapable of holding preferment; and the *Church Times*, equally brief, said that the Bishop had declared the living vacant. The climax, however, in this unsavoury business has since been reached, I think, for in the latest edition of the Norwich Diocesan Calendar (1912), in the list of resignations, Mr. Farrar's name is given as that of one of those who *resigned* on December 8th, 1911!

Now according to law (Incumbents' Resignation Act, 1871), no such step can be effectually taken until a form has been signed by the applicant, in which, *inter alia*, he has to seek the Bishop's permission, and, having obtained such sanction, he must execute a deed before either the Bishop himself or a notary public, or two persons (one of whom must be a Justice of the Peace), or two clergymen.

In this document he must state that "for certain just and lawful causes he is especially moving without compulsion, fraud, or deceit, &c." The question then may surely be asked, and I trust that *you* will ask it: Was any such deed properly executed by Farrar; and, if so, why was he not then and there promptly handed over to the police by one or other of the responsible persons attesting the signature?

If he had been a poor, friendless curate would equal leniency have been extended to him? Has the law no power to reach those who connived at his escape?

"SIN"-EMATOGRAPHS ON TOUR.

INDECENT PICTURES AT KINGSTON.

Indecent cinematograph films seem not to be confined to the illicit "shows" in the West End of London, for the Kingston magistrates have imposed a fine of £10, together with five guineas costs, upon William Barron, and have also mulcted Maude Barron in costs, for exhibiting, at 8, Eden Street, Kingston, cinematograph films of an indecent nature. The original hearing was adjourned in order that the magistrates might see the pictures of which complaint had been made. These had to be brought from Oxford Street for that purpose. Police-sergeant Waters, in the course of the adjourned hearing, stated that one of the pictures he had complained of was absent, while two others produced were different from those he had seen. One, entitled "The Joys and Sorrows of Married Life," he asserted, was not in its complete form, some of the single pictures having apparently been removed. Another, "The Artist's Model," was not what he had seen exhibited at all. Mr. Hanson, who defended, said he was sorry the police had not taken possession of the films immediately they had seen them, but his client was sure nothing had been altered. If any pictures were missing it was because they had got stuck together, as they sometimes did, and in that case the removal of one or two would make no appreciable difference. The defendant in reference to the titles of the pictures, said that names were no criterion of the character of the films. For instance, he explained, a film depicting a Paris fire he had entitled "Scene in Paris—Very Hot." As to the nature of the exhibition, defendant continued, there was nothing more indecent than one could always see on the bookstalls, or in a dancing turn on the music halls. If the sight of women's underclothing were to be considered indecent, he contended, women would have to be shut up, and certainly never allowed on the stage.

Nevertheless, the magistrates rightly remained unconvinced, and the police won the day.

LATEST SALVATION ARMY METHODS.

EXPLOITING CHILDREN.

The old methods of begging on behalf of the Salvation Army seem to have had their day. Here is the latest dodge:—

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

SALE BY AUCTION
in the
SALVATION ARMY HALL,
Albert Road, Farnworth
THE AUCTIONEER,
Acting under instructions, will sell by public Auction,
and without reserve,
On Monday, Feb. 12th, at 7.45 p.m.,
THIRTEEN
Selected
CHILDREN
(6 Boys and 7 Girls, ages from 6 to 15 years).
The parents are consenting parties to this sale, and state these Children include some of the best in the district.
The Children can be viewed the night of the sale, and will be knocked DOWN IN ONE LOT to the highest bidder.
Admission: One Penny.
Monday Evening, Feb. 12th, at 7.45.

What are the local police doing?

THE DEPOSIT TRICK AGAIN.

BEWARE OF THE "BRITISH SUPPLY STORES."

The latest practitioners of the old deposit trick appear to be the British Supply Stores, of 21, Cannon Street, Manchester. They issue a fly-paper in the shape of a little pamphlet, the wording of which is prudently vague regarding the delivery of the goods. The various lots—"jewellery" and bedding—are priced at £1 each, and customers are informed that "all you have to do is to fill up the coupon stating which lot you require and send with a postal order for 2s. and also promise to show the goods and advertise same amongst your friends"—thus implying that the articles are sent on receipt of the 2s. That this specious statement is intended to, and does deceive is evident from the fact that the firm send out printed letters thanking "esteemed patrons" for deposits, enclosing payment card, and offering them the articles at once for 18s. with a "valuable" present thrown in! If they are not prepared to accept this proposal, a cool request is made that they should trust the unknown firm with their money for ten months before getting anything in return.

With regard to such of the practitioners of this dodge as refuse to return "deposits" obtained in this misleading manner, we have often wondered that the police have not instituted a prosecution for obtaining money by false pretences.

SQUARES AND CROOKS.

"THE LONDON (VERY) FINE ART CO."

The London Fine Art Co., of 89, Cornwallis Road, London, N.—who in April last hastened to "congratulate" competitors on being successful in a square-counting (and mug catching) competition for prizes amounting to £200 — though, despite their success, they were to be considered as competitors only if they sent 2s. 6d. for thirty postcards and a gold "simulation" article—threw their nets wide. It took a long time to drum up half crowns from the flats who sent in solutions of the childish puzzle, but on December 22nd a halfpenny stamp was forwarded to them, with an expression of polite regret that the amount was so small, as there was a great number of correct answers. A *Canadian* correspondent was informed that "letters and solutions of all prize-winners can be seen at our offices *within 7 days from the date of this letter*"! That is *very* "fine" art!

CHINESE PIG.

A seaman reader at Hankow sends us the following letter.

My boat is bringing back to Old England several thousand carcases of pork, and about a thousand cases of eggs. While out here I managed to see some of the havoc of the rebellion, *but what sickened me most was the sight of the pigs eating the stinking corpses.*

Now Mr. Burns!

THE "PRUDENTIAL" THREATENS ACTION.

STARTLING ADMISSIONS BY COUNSEL—PANIC SPREADING AMONGST POLICY-HOLDERS—WHERE WILL IT END?

[*Showing how the Prudential's blind, panic-stricken "shelling-out" to prevent publicity in the Courts in regard to illegal policies has placed the Office "between the devil and the deep sea."*]

YET ANOTHER UGLY FALL FOR THE COMPANY.

In the City of London Court, on the 15th inst., before His Honour Judge Lumley Smith, K.C., Mr. Charles Wharrad, of Birmingham (represented by Mr. Frank Newbolt, Barrister-at-law), scored a brilliant victory, despite the fact that the Company had the advantage of the services of an eminent King's Counsel, Mr. George Elliott, in addition to Mr. Wild. Mr. Wharrad sued the Company for £9 15s., being premiums which he had been induced to pay in respect of an insurance which he agreed to take out in 1896 upon his mother's life. Pursuant to their usual practice, the Prudential had given him not the policy for which he stipulated—viz., a policy in his favour insuring his mother's life for his benefit—but a policy which professed to have been taken out by Mrs. Wharrad upon a proposal made by her for her own benefit and for the benefit of whoever might be her legal representative at her death.

The fact was (as Mrs. Wharrad swore) that, so far from having signed a proposal to insure her life, she did not know that she was insured until years after; and when confronted with the proposal form of which her execution was signified by a cross, she proved that she could write, and declared that the cross was not hers and that she had never made the proposal in that or any other way.

Mrs. Wharrad was corroborated in this by the production of other documents in the Company's possession bearing her genuine signature.

The Plaintiff was asked by Mr. Elliott if he was a member of the John Bull League or of any other association, and he denied that he was.

In the course of the case, a proposal form which purported to be signed (with a cross) by Mrs. Wharrad's husband was also produced; but the Plaintiff declared that his father could write his name.

Notwithstanding this testimony, the Court was asked to believe that Mrs. Wharrad had made a cross—although able to sign her name, and that this was often done.

The Judge, after a lengthy hearing, directed judgment to be entered for the Plaintiff, and awarded costs on the higher scale.

It is noteworthy that the Company pleaded the Act of 1909 as a defence, but it did not avail them.

FEELING THE DRAUGHT.

In the course of his address, Mr. George Elliott, K.C., stated that the Company were in "a position of extreme difficulty" with regard to these cases, which "came from all parts of the country," and that there was "no hope that the flood of claims would cease," and he suggested that all these claims came "from a certain source"; and in response to an enquiry from the Judge as to whether (if that were correct) the Company had not an action for "maintenance," he said that they were considering steps in this direction.

Well, the source from which these actions come, or most of them, is from our readers whom we have enlightened as to their position, and we invite the Company to take any proceedings they like against this journal or its Editor.

In the meantime, will those interested in the Company note that the attempt of the Prudential to defeat Mr. Wharrad's paltry little claim of £9 odd cost the Company £44 for their counsel's fees alone, to say nothing of all the other expense? Where is it all to end?

THE COMPANY'S DILEMMA.

The extent which the directors are liable to "shell out" on these irregular policies may prove ultimately very damaging to its Industrial Section, for there is an open invitation to every person holding such a policy to proceed at once to secure the return of premiums paid. The management has brought itself into a sorry plight!

Section 36 (2) of the Assurance Companies Act, 1909, reads thus: "No policy effected before the passing of this Act with a collecting society or industrial assurance company shall be deemed to be void by reason only that the person effecting the policy had not, at the time the policy was effected, an insurable interest in the life of the person assured, or that the name of the person interested, or for whose benefit or on whose account the policy was effected, was not inserted in the policy, or that the insurance was not one authorised by the Acts relating to friendly societies, *if the policy was effected by or on account of a person who had at the time a bona-fide expectation that he would incur expenses in connection with the death or funeral of the assured.*"

Now the Prudential are looking to this Section to help them out of their difficulties, and are making use of it whenever any question is raised as to the validity of policies effected by one person on the life of another *before* the passing of the Act, with a result that they place themselves "between the devil and the deep sea." For we arrive at a very interesting position: The holder of an irregular policy, whose insurance was effected before 1909, finds himself able to demand his premiums back as soon as it suits his purpose—as, for instance, when he has paid in more than the sum assured; or, on the other hand, if the assured is likely to die and the speculation turn out well, he is usually able, by raising doubt about the validity of his policy, to get a statement from the Company that in their opinion it is valid under the Act of 1909!

THE POSITION OF THE BONA-FIDE POLICY-HOLDER.

The time may soon be ripe for policy-holders who have legal policies in the "Prudential," to ask themselves seriously how such an undesirable condition of things affects them, and where it will lead. When we read that £45 10s., plus costs, has in one case been paid in connection with two policies under which the total sum assured at death was only £21, we do not require any technical knowledge to realise how, with the multiplication of such cases, the funds of the Company must suffer. That the amount standing in the books to meet the liability under these two policies was not more than £21 we may safely assume. The owners of legal policies have a right to ask—they ought to demand—an enquiry into the probable ultimate effect upon the position of the Company of these widespread and, as their own counsel suggests, endless repayments.

FULL ENQUIRY NEEDED.

The holders of undoubted legal policies should take steps to focus opinion among themselves and decide upon the best means of translating that opinion into action. The sooner they do so the better. They should agitate for a full Government enquiry into the whole question of these fraudulent policies, and as to the actuarial effect of the present method of the Board of either refunding premiums in full (to the detriment of the general funds) or of incurring heavy expenses in a desperate effort to avert liability. The existing state of things is a public scandal.

"THE CITY REGISTER."

DECEPTION OF UNEMPLOYED CLERKS.

The following advertisement appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* of February 8th :—

Bookkeeper, to take entire charge of books and trading accounts in electrical business. Apply by letter E. L., "The City Register," 22, Philpot Lane, Fenchurch Street.

Those who applied received the following reply :—

Save Time, Trouble and Expense By Advertising In
"The City Register."
Price One Penny.
A City Advertiser For City People.

An Advertising Register and Register Of Advertisers.
22, Philpot Lane, E.C.
(Between Eastcheap and Fenchurch Street.)

DEAR SIR,—We shall be pleased to introduce you to the vacancy advertised, E. L., on your agreeing to pay us half the first week's salary, when received; 5s. of which is payable on handing you the name and address.

Free Registration (if necessary) for three months.

"THE CITY REGISTER."

Now it is quite obvious that the headed notepaper from 22, Philpot Lane is designed to inspire confidence. Let us at once state that there is no such paper as the *City Register*. We are given to understand that it is "in course of production." We shall be pleased to see a copy when issued. In the meantime, we warn our readers against this cruel deception practised upon out-of-work clerks.

SUBSTITUTION OF FURNITURE.

PURCHASING A SIDEBOARD FROM MAPLE'S.

It is possible that, in these days of machine-made furniture, a person may safely buy from a sample shown him by a salesman. No exception can, of course, be taken to such a transaction, provided it be entered into with full knowledge on the part of the purchaser. But a reader who lately bought from Messrs. Maple a sideboard to which, in his presence, the salesman had affixed a label marked "Sold," complains that the article delivered to him was in several ways different from that which he purchased. The contention of the firm is that, in view of the automatic manufacture, the sideboards are identical, but this can hardly be the case, as the purchaser at once detected the substitution. Nor is Messrs. Maple's case strengthened by the fact that their employé ticketed the article as "Sold," thus implying it would be delivered to our correspondent. It is only fair to add that the firm at once offered to send the article originally chosen—but that does not affect the point against the existing practice of substitution.

THE LOSS OF THE "PAPANUI."

WHAT IT MEANT TO THE EMIGRANTS ON BOARD.

One of the passengers on the emigrant ship *Papanui*, which sailed from London for Western Australia on August 21st last, and was burnt at St. Helena during the following month, complains of the treatment the unfortunate emigrants experienced. Following their hurried disembarkation at St. Helena, they suffered considerable hardships—some doubtless inevitable in the circumstances, but others which apparently could have been avoided. One complaint is that, after sleeping on the floor without covering, when they were lucky enough to get a blanket it was taken away from them by a steward, on the ground that they were not then entitled to anything, as they had "done with the ship and everything on it."

On the s.s. *Opawa*, which took them off at St. Helena, they were anything but comfortable, and upon arrival at Fremantle their reception by the Government authorities and possible employers was so uncordial as to complete their disillusionment. Such as could—our informant among the number—returned home.

By the way, the inhabitants of St. Helena—whose kind treatment of these stranded people was the one pleasant experience in a long series of discomforts—made a collection for them at concerts, etc., but there seems to be some mystery regarding the disposition of the fund so charitably raised.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CLXXXII.

[In this column, every week, we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

APPEAL FOR A HEARTBROKEN WIDOW.

The subject of this "Human Document" is a widow with seven children. Her husband was employed as carman by one firm for over twelve years. Six months ago he was taken ill with heart trouble, and had to discontinue work. Although his wages had been considerably under 30s. a week, he had managed to save a few pounds; and on this money the family lived, so long as it lasted. They did not receive a penny piece from the firm he had served so well. When the end came, however, the employers sent a handsome wreath!

The widow, a hard-working little woman, left with seven children, is almost driven to despair. She has been obliged to consent to part with the four eldest children, who are being placed in "homes." The three youngest are left for her to struggle for as best she can. It is her desire, if possible, to keep out of the workhouse; and if only a few pounds can be got together for her, she thinks she may be able to make a living with a sweetmeat shop or newspaper round.

Perhaps some of our readers can lend a helping hand?

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named :—

CLXV.—R. E. S., 10s.
CLXVII.—R. E. S., 20s.
CLXX.—R. E. S., 5s.
CLXXII.—R. E. S., 5s.
CLXXX.—"Clubmaster," 3s.; K. R., 5s.; M. and P. P., 5s.; J. S., 1s.; "Elstow," 3s.; F. J. R., 1s. 6d.; "M.," 10s.; "Sympathiser," 2s. 6d.; P. O. F., 1s.; "Cat," 1s.; M. J. R., 5s.; "Chipping Norton," 2s. 6d.; "Two Loaves," 6d.; T. J. E., 3s.; "Evelyn Celia," 1s. 6d.; A. F. (Falkirk), 1s.; "We Three," 6s.; "Every Little Helps," 1s.; "Telephone Jack," 2s. 6d.; R. A., 1s. 6d.; "Asyewould," 2s. 6d.; A. A., 5s.; J. F. L., 5s.; "Sunny Jim," 4s.; A. G., 1s.; T. B. 1s.; J. H. E., 2s. 6d.; J. J. H., 5s.
CLXXXI.—"Nugget," 2s. 6d.; H. S. Hurst, 2s.; L. E. H. M., 10s.; "Essex," 2s. 6d.; "Chum," 2s.

RECEIPTS FROM COLLECTING BOXES.

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LIVERPOOL.—Mr. S. Jacobus, 9, Seymour Street, W., 2d.; Mr. F. Delderfield, Corner Springfield and Soho Street, 1s. 1d.; Mr. J. Tuohy, 24, Duncan Street, 1½d.; Mrs. A. Munro, 176, Mount Pleasant, 2½d.; Mr. G. Mackenzie, 275, Grafton Street, 2s.

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(A further list will be published next week.)

THINGS THAT MATTER.

By Norman Tiptaft.

BEING MAINLY INTRODUCTORY.

This is a new feature. Its distinctive quality is expressed in its title. Its purpose is to make men and women—ordinary orthodox men and women—think. It has to do with the common things of life—food, clothing, shelter. It looks at all modern happenings from the standpoint of bread and butter. Not because bread and butter form the final goal of progress, but because without a sufficiency of them for every man, woman and child, all progress is retarded.

For untold years now the vision of the man in the street has been directed to Heaven, Hell, and the end of the earth. I want to make him see the Staffordshire Black Country, the London slums, and the Lancashire factory system. He has been told of a new Jerusalem above; I want him to build a new Manchester on earth.

He has sung:—

The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at his gate,
God made them high and lowly
And ordered their Estate."

I want him to understand quite clearly that that is a frigid and calculated lie. God started one primeval protoplasm on the same level as another, and the reason the rich man now lives in his castle is because he stole the land on which it stands, compelled the poor man to build it for him, and then kicked him outside. The poor man stops at the gate because he's fool enough to stop there.

The Coal Crisis.

It's quite likely you'll say the writer is a condemned fool or a paid agitator. That's all to the good. It doesn't matter a hang whether you agree with him or not, provided you face the problems as they come along.

The problem that's concerning most of us at present is the coal crisis. Very few people know anything about it. The general impression is that miners are a set of dissatisfied people, very much below the ordinary level of intelligence; that their dissatisfaction has been caused by certain wicked socialists, and that the only way to stop the strike—if strike there be—is to put the country under military law and starve them, their wives and their little ones into submission. "Teach the beggars a lesson," as I heard one highly-polished "gentleman" declare.

I heard a good man pray the other day. The first petition in his prayer was, "O Lord persuade the miners not to strike." He held the common idea that it was the miners (led, of course, by the agitators) who were the cause of all the trouble. It didn't strike him to pray, "O Lord, persuade the idle royalty owners, the fat shareholders, the wealthy directors, to sacrifice some of their superfluous wealth that the man who, at the risk of his life, goes down the mine may have enough to buy him the ordinary decencies of civilisation."

It's just a matter of the point of view. Ask a man straight out the simple question: "Do you believe that a man who works hard should have a decent wage?" he'll square his shoulders and in a tone of virtuous indignation tell you that such a belief is part of his religion. Get a miners' strike on, and he'll tell you the Government displays a sad lack of firmness for not shooting a few hundred of them down. It isn't that he's not a good-hearted sort of man—he'll give a blind beggar a shilling every time he sees one—it's just that his thinking capacity has remained undeveloped.

The Scavenger and the Peer.

To any intelligent person it is a self-evident proposition that a scavenger is a far more necessary person than a hereditary legislator, but the man in the street doesn't think so. He believes in paying scavengers 21s. a week, and hereditary legislators anything up to a million a year. He wouldn't do it if he thought about it, but he doesn't think. All of which proves, of course, that his instincts are conservative. Suppose the ordinary man happens to be a manufacturer and you suggest that he should make an article by a new process. Do you think he'll take the trouble to enquire into it? Not likely! He'll tell you that his father, his grandfather, his great-grandfather, and I know not how many more generations back, have made this particular article in a particular way, and for you to suggest that he should do anything different argues that you must be inclined to lunacy.

* * * * * *

Everybody believes in peace—peace, beautiful peace. Further, everybody believes that one of the noblest things a man can do is to save the life of a fellow creature. In accordance with that belief, we spend about a hundred millions a year on an organisation to murder our fellow man; but if anyone suggested half that sum to prevent the horrible unnecessary infantile death-rate, to establish sanatoria for invalids, to allow widows with no means of support to stay at home and look after their families, to abolish sweated labour—in short, to do quite a lot of necessary things—things that do most vitally matter—he would immediately be called a revolutionary, an impossibilist, probably also an atheist and a free lover.

Are Politicians Indispensable?

As for politics (this is not a political page, only I'm bound to tell you this one), I heard a discussion—a discussion between two ordinary men—the other day. Said one: "If we had more tradesmen in Parliament I believe it would be better." "Tradesmen!" said the other, "*tradesmen!* What the—— do they know about politics? It's politicians we want."

You see, it's an idea—the same as the others—that people are used to. The politician, the superior person, is a being specially ordained by Providence to look after the ordinary man; in fact, the ordinary man couldn't do without him. It's a mistake. The ordinary man would find out the mistake if he'd only think—but, you see, he doesn't!

* * * * * *

"God's Englishman."

"*God's Englishman!*" It's a phrase. We *are* the people, eh? And yet there are some foreigners who are better educated, keener men of business and harder workers than we are. It's as well to recognise these things.

* * * * * *

That, then, is the idea of this page—to focus attention on the commonplace things of life—the things that happen to all of us. To try and persuade the man in the street that he is the chief concern of the Empire, that the real doctrine of the trinity is the one which includes his child, his wife and himself. That at present *he* has no native land—he merely lives here by the kind permission of the favoured few (several of foreign extraction) who own the country. That his life is a pretty short one, anyhow, and that he might as well make it comfortable. That because he has done a thing in a certain way, or because a certain system or custom has gone on for a long time, it doesn't necessarily follow that it's either right or wise. That those people who claim the right to mould his opinions, influence his ideas, teach him his duty, are themselves only human and, therefore, quite liable to make mistakes.

In brief, this page is designed to make the man in the street sit up and take notice. If by any chance he should——?

COAL! COAL!

The outlook, so the papers say,
For miners is most black;
For now, instead of getting coal,
Their trade is getting *slack!*

The proverb that they act upon
Is not the one of old;
They don't "strike while the iron's hot"—
But while the *weather's cold.*

But why should just a coal strike cause
This argument and chatter?
Though 'tis a *burning* question, yet
'Tis but a *miner* matter.

They say we can't with coal dispense,
The statement rather rash is—
Wait till our cricketers come back
And bring with them the "ashes"!

Greatrex Newman.

Are you a 30/- a Week Man?

Sir Hiram Maxim's Startling accusations—Why are there so few men worth £5 a week?

THAT great inventor and keen business man, Sir Hiram Maxim, in a striking series of letters to the *Daily Express*, makes some startling accusations against the modern business man. He says in effect that he, as an employer, can find thousands of men to fill jobs at 30s. a week, but that these men never improve, never become worthy of the positions at £5 a week.

And he says this is because the 30s. a week man never troubles to get any real knowledge of business. He does just what he *has* to do, and no more. But the serious part of the matter is that Sir Hiram is right.

Now once you admit that Sir Hiram Maxim is right, and that the 30s. a week man never rises because he never gets a real knowledge of his work, you should carry the principle a little further. You may smile at the shop assistant whom he describes who sold bottles of gum for years, and never noticed that they were labelled "mucilage," but he provides an object lesson to you, and there is one question you should ask yourself very seriously. Its answer may make a great difference to you if you mean to succeed.

In six words this question is:—

What Do You Know About Business?

At first sight you may be inclined to pooh-pooh the question, but unless you are a rare and brilliant exception you will probably own, after a mortifying self-examination, that it is precious little indeed of sound Business knowledge that you really know—confidently and surely enough to bank on.

Yet, without this Business knowledge, your chances of doing well for yourself in the business world are very poor ones indeed. With it, there is

No Position You Cannot Aspire to.

Without it you run the risk of being a 30s. a week man all your life, or, if not that, at any rate, a near approach to one.

Now what do *you* know about Business?

For instance, do you understand Bookkeeping thoroughly? Could you draw up a balance-sheet? Do you understand exactly how the financial position of a tradesman or a firm is determined from his books? Do you understand profit and loss account? Do you know when recovery of book debts is barred?

Do you know much about the Income-Tax? Do you know Company Law? Do you know the cost of the formation of a Company? The methods of amalgamation? Do you understand the conversion of shares into stock? Do you understand Compulsory Winding-up? Do you know all about County Court Business, Judgments, etc.?

Do you know how to start a Business? How to secure its credit, and to buy its equipment? How to organise its departments, build up its reputation, collect its debts, rake in its profits?

Yet these matters are Business knowledge. And if you want to make money in business you must either know them or know where you can get authoritative and complete and up-to-date information concerning them and concerning the thousand and one points of doubt or difficulty that beset the business man in the course of his business day.

Now What Are You to do?

You must get the "Business Encyclopædia."

You cannot do without it, whether you are an ambitious young man on the threshold of your commercial life or a mature business man who dreads that he may be crowded out of the Business fight owing to the present-day stress of competition. It gives you new ideas, and it enables you to put into successful practice your own ideas.

The subjects dealt with in the "Business Encyclopædia" include every phase of business in full technical detail. The legal documents most commonly needed are shown in actual facsimile insetted into the book. Card index and accounting systems for every business are illustrated and described in detail.

The "Business Encyclopædia," in short, supplies an experience so wide that no one man could ever possess it by any other means. The one great essential of modern business success is knowledge, the knowledge that the "Encyclopædia" has been designed to supply.

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Whatever your business or position, the "Business Encyclopædia" can help you as nothing else can. To the junior it offers a knowledge far wider and far surer than any his Manager can have; to the Manager, it lends knowledge and that equally valuable asset, confidence in his decisions.

If you are doubtful as to how the "Business Encyclopædia" can help you in your particular sphere, send for a book describing its contents more fully than there is space for here. It is sent to you free, and places you under no obligation to buy or even to inspect the books.

TWO OPINIONS.

Messrs. J. S. FRY and SONS, Ltd., Bristol, write:—
"The volumes have already proved of great use to us, and we would not be without them on any account. We strongly advise all commercial men to purchase the work."

Mr. G. W. READ, Clerk, Fortnam Road, London, N.:—
"I never made a more gratifying purchase. I regard the 'Business Encyclopædia' as a most profitable investment, and I very much regret that such a work did not come my way earlier in life."

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We have prepared a handsomely illustrated Book which will be sent to you free of charge, and which will show you how necessary the "Business Encyclopædia" is to your success, and how to obtain it for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only, the balance being paid by small monthly payments.

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.....

A DRAFT KING'S SPEECH.

DISCOVERED IN THE WASTE-PAPER BASKET AT DOWNING STREET.

By RICHARD MORTON.

Many different drafts and copies of the King's Speech are prepared before its form is finally settled; numerous alterations are made, and whole paragraphs are omitted or interpolated. The following Speech is not in the terms of that actually delivered by his Majesty, but is one of the early and discarded drafts. It is supposed to be the work of Mr. Birrell.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I am still quite friendly with all the other Monarchs. I do not believe in falling out with people in the same line of business as myself, especially when some of us are so nearly related.

I wish Italy and Turkey would put an end to their little dust-up. Of course, it is not for me to interfere, and I should hate to meddle, but, if they care to come to me for a tip, it would not take me long to give them one.

I am sorry to say there has been a slump in Persian lamb, synchronising with the appearance of the Bear in the market. Again, this is a case where I do not care to put my spoke in, preferring to stand aside in a state of masterly inactivity. You may often bring lots of things to pass by merely doing nothing.

There has been an awful smash-up in China, but the people out there are beginning to put the pieces together in artistic fashion, and the vessel of State will, I hope, be soon patched up into usable, and presentable ware.

I may mention that I have recently returned from India. I am not sorry to be back, though I must confess the tiger-shooting and other big game potting were quite good sport. I am sure the people of my Indian dominions were pleased to see me. I shifted the seat of government from Calcutta to Delhi. Anything for a change. The Durbar is engraved on my heart in in- Delhible Indian ink.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

The Estimates for next year will be laid before you, but you will not expect much time for their discussion. They wil be found quite correct in every detail, I having recently approved of the appointment of my well-beloved and trusty Masterman as Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

A measure for the better (or worse) Government of Ireland will be submitted. I wish you a happy issue out of your afflictions.

You will also be asked to have a go at the franchise, and I anticipate that the ladies will have nothing to say in the matter. I advise you to talk circumspectly, walk warily, and keep the pieces.

There will also be a measure for the Disestablishment of the Church in Wales, and the establishment and endowment of a Methodist Cathedral, with an adequate staff of Nonconformist prelates.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons: I do not consider that you are at present adequately rewarded for your devoted services. Help yourselves!

And may heaven have mercy on your souls.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

"COMING, SIR!"

[*The London County Council contemplates starting a technical school for training British boys as waiters.*]

Young man, attend the class and study straight,
Good service may secure a scholarship;
For ev'rything will come to those who wait,
And when you pass you'll thank us for our tip.

THE LADIES' LATEST.

[*The Women's Labour League, at Birmingham, passed a resolution demanding that free burial should be provided.*]

Pray, dearest ladies, know our love is such
That scorns the easy jest we might contrive;
We do not wish to bury you—we much
Prefer you, ladies—spite your faults—alive!

RICARDO.

A VOICE FROM THE VELDT.

ANOTHER WARNING AGAINST OUR "BROTHER BOER."

[*The writer of the following letter is a shrewd observer of men and things in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, and he reiterates a warning which he sent us some time ago.*]

The untravelled Home man is far more blind than any self-respecting bat. Your clever repartee will come in handy here and enable you to reply to this assertion in a manner that will probably make me feel sick, but a smart answer will not alter the fact that you are politically blind. Hopelessly so, too, in so far as foreign matters go.

Pray let me remind you of the predictions in a letter I had the pleasure of writing you eighteen months since.

1. A War with Germany.
2. Brother Boer seizes the opportunity of yanking down our flag.
3. The Kaffirs are united by their long awaited Messiah, and cause the worst war this country has ever seen.
4. Africa becomes a blackman's country.

I know that Botha's platitudes go down like mother's milk with you stay-at-home Englishmen. While admiring what you consider his ultra loyalty, you at the same time belittle him by thinking he has chucked his nationality and country. If the Germans do conquer England, will every Englishman promptly become a loyal German? There is just about as much hope of that as there is of the Boer licking the niggers without an English army to help. Your obvious answer is, why then should the Boer want to chuck us? The reply is that sentiment rules the world often in great things, as well as small. The Boer hates us, is blinded with hate, and, like others in that condition, will cheerfully cut off his nose to spite his face. You can rave about the Liberals all you know, but the worst day's work they did for the Empire was to put the Boer in power.

The only "clever repartee" we shall indulge in will be to thank our correspondent for his letter, and ask him to keep us informed as to how things are going. We are certainly not disposed to ridicule his predictions. We have too high an opinion of the race pride of the Boer to believe that he has so readily accommodated himself to the new order of things. We shall see.

"RARE AND REFRESHING FRUIT."

MAKING IT CLEAR.

In reference to our recent paragraph under the above heading, Mr. F. A. Bower, the secretary of the St Paul's Branch of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks, writes us that he has been instructed to answer our correspondent. He says: "Whether your correspondent receives his wages or not when he is ill, he will still receive his union and State benefits, in addition, providing his union subscription and his and his employer's contributions are paid up and his cards in order. With regard to the scheme to which he refers, his remarks are misleading and he does not seem to have studied the point For the extra threepence he will pay, he will receive sick benefit from the *first* day of illness, an extra 4s. for the first four weeks, three months' unemployed benefit, death benefit, trade protection and free solicitor's advice, also free court protection if necessary. All which is considered by the majority of our members to be well worth the extra contribution. Also, this scheme has only been provisionally adopted, as it is in an actuary's hands in order to see if further benefits can be added."

"NOBLESSE OBLIGE."

In further reference to the paragraph which appeared in our issue of January 6th, we regret that we erroneously described the Marquis of Huntly as a "bankrupt," and we apologise for any annoyance which may have been caused to his Lordship by the inadvertence. We have already explained that neither the horses nor the drag which caused the accident were his Lordship's property, and that he has never admitted any liability in connection with the matter.

EXTRAORDINARY RESPONSE TO THE OFFER MADE TO OUR READERS WISHING TO RECEIVE THE PELMAN "EARN MORE MONEY" TRAINING COURSE.

EARLY CLOSING OF LIST OWING TO LARGE NUMBERS OF CANDIDATES, INCLUDING BARRISTERS, LAWYERS, BUSINESS MEN, CLERKS, &c.

There has been an extraordinary number of enquiries in response to the offer of the Pelman School to reduce the cost of its training to a limited number of readers of JOHN BULL.

Amongst the applications received on the morning following JOHN BULL's publication of the offer were several from members of Parliament, many from barristers and lawyers, and a host from business men of all grades, from merchants, bankers and financiers to cashiers, managers, head-clerks, accountants, book-keepers, shop assistants and clerks. Let yours be the next application—it will bring you in a rich return in the shape of an income perhaps even trebled.

DEVELOP MONEY-EARNING POWERS.

Professional men, too, engineers and mechanics, have also proved anxious to secure better positions and earn larger incomes by means of this success-making system particulars of which are now offered you free on a personal call or application by letter. This system develops in those who undertake it the gold-earning qualities of—

A magnificent never-forgetting memory.
Original ideation and creative power.
Mental energy.
Determination.
Mental concentration.
Rapid mental assimilation.
Wide intellectual grasp.
Self-confidence and decision.
The power of dominating others.
Sound reasoning and logical thinking.
Organising power.

All these qualities are developed in your brain by this wonderful Pelman plan. Write for free particulars and copy of the Pelman Journal, *to-day!*

In consequence of the number of men and women who have already enrolled for the Home-taught Course of Pelman Mind-Training under the JOHN BULL reduction plan, the list is on the point of being completed and the offer withdrawn.

THE LISTS ARE ON THE POINT OF CLOSING.

There is yet time—if you write at once. Everything, including the splendid magazine showing how to make your mind a veritable money-mint coining out golden sovereigns for you every day, is sent you free. Write for it now. When you find yourself earning double, treble, or even four times the income you are earning now—as the result of your increased capacity through making this application (which costs you not even a penny)—you will look back to this day as the red-letter day of your life, the date upon which you took the tide at the flood that led straight on to fortune and success—with all the happiness that success brings.

MUSCLE POWER LIMITED—BRAIN POWER UNLIMITED.

"Men are paid" says a great writer, "for either what they think or for what they do with their muscles. Man's muscles have a limit; he can move just so much matter by physical force, but by thinking he has unlimited possibilities."

The man who wishes to make money in big sums must develop in his brain those powers which, as the above quotation puts it, are unlimited.

Many readers who adopted the Pelman system twelve months ago now hold much bigger positions and draw much larger incomes than they did before—solely because of the "getting on and holding on" capabilities developed by this system.

You can do the same, whatever your present position. Just send to-day for the magazine and full particulars. They cost you nothing, but their value to you can only be stated in terms of doubly or trebly (perhaps even more) greatly increased income.

DEVELOPING THE LATENT POWER OF YOUR BRAIN.

Everybody's brain holds possibilities of better things. The seeds of success, of capacity, of big-income-earning powers, are sown by Nature in every mind. Too often these powers are left undeveloped. If you are holding a subordinate badly-paid position now it is because these powers of greater things—which you do possess whether you know it or not—have not been properly developed and cultured.

By practising the Pelman system (which you follow in your own home in your spare time or at odd moments during the day) you develop in your mind qualities which the world at once perceives and rewards with more money and higher position.

RAPID RISE IN INCOME SCALE OF PELMAN-TRAINED MEN

As a consequence of adopting this system the clerk finds himself rapidly advanced in the office, he becomes book-keeper, cashier, head-clerk, confidential secretary or manager of a department.

The department manager in a similar way finds himself becoming a more powerful and important personality in the firm.

This is no imaginative picture. It is what actually happens to readers who have trained their minds and improved and developed their getting-on faculties by this plan, as the letters in the possession of the Secretary of the Pelman School show.

Besides this "getting-on" faculty developed by the Pelman system, this method also strengthens your mind and memory, enables you to do more and better work in less time, and gives you such splendid memorising powers that you are able to remember (and never forget) figures, dates, appointments, addresses, names, prices and arguments, and business plans, to obtain a complete mastery over foreign languages, scientific data, intricate sets of figures, and to commit whole passages to memory in from a quarter to half the usual time—a faculty most useful to barristers, solicitors, speakers, teachers, bank clerks, commercial travellers, salesmen, shop assistants, professional men, as well as to business men of every rank, age and position.

GETS YOU TO THE TOP OF THE TREE OF SUCCESS.

The world offers golden prizes to the Pelman-trained man. Employers are looking out for them and willing to pay big salaries to the men who have trained their minds on the same principles as brought them themselves to the top of the business tree. Big business men, too, are taking up the system and increasing the money-earning powers of their brains.

You have this opportunity to-day—the opportunity of earning more money by a system which you can adopt at a greatly reduced fee if you avail yourself of the present occasion. Enter before it is too late. Train your money-making getting-on faculties by this plan, which you can adopt at once before the offer is withdrawn.

WRITE FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE PELMAN MAGAZINE TO-DAY.

If you are unable to call, send your application by letter or post-card to-day for free copy of the first issue of "Pelman's Magazine of the Mind" with which you will also receive full particulars of the special terms arranged for readers of JOHN BULL, to whom the Pelman Course of Training has been so constantly recommended by the Editor. Address your letter or postcard *to The Secretary*, THE PELMAN SCHOOL, Dept. A. 15, WENHAM HOUSE, BLOOMSBURY STREET, LONDON, W.C. A free copy of The Pelman Magazine will reach you by return post, and an opportunity to receive The Pelman Course on very advantageous terms if you care to avail yourself of it.

THE RETURN OF MONA LISA.

By Ida E. M. Browne.

[Below we print a powerful narrative depicting what would have happened had "Mona Lisa" come to life, left her frame of her own free will, and, like the Madonna in "The Miracle," mixed again with humanity.]

Dawn over Paris. The gold light of an August morning streamed into the windows of the Louvre. A woman's portrait, with fair, folded hands and a sweet, smiling face, suddenly stirred. She passed one hand over her forehead like one waking from sleep, then rose and stood a moment gazing out of her frame. Then she spoke, in soft Italian accents. "I am weary of sitting here so long, smiling at the gaping crowds who go by. The Master who painted me made me Immortal; I cannot die, I shall need nothing. I will go out into the world as it is now, and find for myself how Time has changed it." Gathering her gown round her, Mona Lisa stepped from her frame. Picking up a grey silk motor cloak and veil, left behind in a corridor the day before, she flung them over her shoulders and head and slipped away down the deserted gallery into the fragrance of the dawn. Four hours later consternation reigned in Paris!

New Year's Eve.

Midnight over London. New Year's Eve and a sleety rain falling. Against the kerbstone, close to Shoreditch Church, a woman stood shivering and alone. She cast despairing eyes at each passer-by, and at last offered to one well-dressed man a box of matches. He brushed it impatiently on one side, and the matches fell on the pavement. The woman put her hands to her face and sobbed. Then a soft hand touched her and she looked up. A lady with a smile stood close to her, a lady dressed in a grey silk cloak and with a grey veil tied over her dark hair. The smile in the brown eyes was so wonderful that even the corners of the woman's mouth lifted, and she smiled back. "I can give you nothing," said the lady, in a tender, foreign voice, "but my good wishes and a blessing." And she passed on. Then, as Fate does sometimes arrange things in this best of all possible worlds, a good-hearted fellow, with money in his pocket, stopped by the match-seller, bought up her stock, and put half-a-sovereign into the poor wasted hand. "A Happy New Year, mother! Take that home to buy something for the kiddies." Happiness reigned that night in one poor garrett. The lady with the smile passed on. Sleet still poured, and she pulled her cloak closer. Her smile was less mirthful now, for those four months had taught her to realise the cruelty of the world.

"When Lovers Prove Unkind."

Her feet tripped over something laid across the pavement in a dark alley, and she looked down. A girl with drenched, dabbled golden hair lay face downward, her head resting on a doorstep, moans of anguish breaking from her young red mouth. The lady with the smile stooped over her, and with a soft hand put back the untidy curls that straggled over the shaking shoulders. "What is the trouble?" she whispered. The girl looked up, and the dark, sympathetic eyes of Lisa Gioconda looked down. "Who are you?" asked the girl, as half-sullenly and ashamedly she rose wearily to her feet and dashed away her tears. "No one you know, carissima. Is your heart so sore nothing can heal it?"

"He's gorne and left me," moaned the girl, dropping her forlorn young head desperately on her arm.

"Do you love him?"

"Gawd knows I do, lidy, but 'tain't no use. I dunno' who you are, but thank you for sayin' a kind word," she broke off abruptly, as a young Territorial, who had emerged from the nearest place of refreshment, brushed by.

"*Jack!*" she screamed, as she ran forward and tore at his arm. The man stopped, and then turned, his face softening as a gentle voice said, "Love her. She loves you. Love is the greatest thing on earth." The man, bewildered, gazed wonderingly, and almost reverently, into the face of Mona Lisa, then, with a sudden tender gesture, flung both arms round the girl. They were together again, and one young, broken heart in the great city was healed.

Mona Lisa passed on.

In a dreary attic, in a dreary lane off Old Street, a young artist lay dying. A miserable lodging it was, a miserable calling his. Hopeless and alone, though gently born and bred, with genius burning in his soul, it had come to this. No one bought pictures in those crowded, sordid streets and homes, but when fever seized him a week before he had all but completed a copy of the vanished masterpiece, in the hope that it would sell for a few shillings. Very beautiful indeed it was; but he would never live to finish it. Her face haunted him, as it had ever done when in happier days he had gazed on it in sunny Paris. "Ah, if I could but see her—herself, real and living—I could be content to die." And this was much from him, who valued life as all young ardent spirits do. Two o'clock struck from St. Luke's Church. He started in half-delirious sleep; the burning hands dragged at the wretched coverlid; something gripped his throat. Was this death?

The Vision Beautiful.

Then suddenly a light gleamed in the poor chamber, and slowly a lady, clad in velvet, with a low-cut bodice revealing all the soft beauty of her neck, and a veil thrown over her rippling hair, came toward him. She laid one cool hand on his forehead, as he stared at her in wonder, delight and amaze. Was this a dream of fever, or did he really see her, Mona Lisa herself? "*You—you!*" he gasped, and tried to raise himself on his elbow, but fell back. Then a gentle arm was round his neck, and a sweet Italian voice said:

"Yes, I am she, the lady with the smile. I was painted long centuries ago by a Master who loved art as you love it. But I shall smile no more, for the world is very sad and weary. My friend, sleep sweetly now, and may the Holy Mother pray for your soul."

The young artist kissed her hand, and a look of adoring ecstasy shone in his dying eyes. Then the light went out, and dimly he groped as if searching for some beloved object. Lisa Gioconda stooped and kissed him into eternal rest.

She stood a moment looking at the drawn, starved face, then covered her own with her beautiful hands. "I will go back," she thought. "The world is cruel and terrible, it frightens me; it was not so in the days when the Master painted me."

The Return.

Broad, bright morning in Paris, and New Year festivities in full swing. Sleepy officials were unlocking the Louvre and making the usual inspection before visitors arrived.

A frantic shriek from the Salon Carré brought a number of excited persons to the spot, to find a *confrère* wildly clutching the railing in front of the pictures, and pointing to a frame from which the portrait of Mona Lisa had so long been missing.

"*La Joconde! La Joconde! Elle est retourné,*" he screamed.

In five minutes all Paris knew it. In half-an-hour Europe knew it. In an hour the world knew it. But what had happened to that beautiful face? Instead of the mysterious, half-mocking smile, the lips drooped in pity; in place of the coquettish glance of the eyes, they held now a look of sorrow and compassion.

"ONWARD."

We have been favoured with a sight of a publication called *Onward*, the monthly organ of the Hastings and St. Leonard's Y.M.C.A. An opening paragraph states, in reference to the "clock" collection, that "the campaign has quickened interest in Y.M.C.A. work throughout the whole country, and we never remember the London press (John Bull excepted, of course), so enthusiastic about the finest institution for young men in the world." The campaign quickened *our* interest in the "financial Christianity" which sanctioned the erection of a vast and expensive building on "tick," and then employed a Yankee hustler to sponge on our generous business men for subscriptions to wipe out the unwarranted debt. It quickened *our* interest in that sort of Christianity which will spend £100,000 on a club for young men well able to look after themselves, whilst hundreds of despairing, homeless, hopeless wretches are forced to sleep on the Embankment.

By the way, what is the financial position of the Hastings and St. Leonard's Branch?

Do not let spare evenings slip through your fingers

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The first step to success—send the coupon for free information

is the aim of the I.C.S.

From the moment you enrol with the International Correspondence Schools their aim is bigger wages for you.

Every I.C.S. postal lesson is practical technical knowledge that will make you a more efficient worker. Think of the salary-raising effect of a whole course of I.C.S. training.

And the efforts of the I.C.S. do not end there. Splendid assistance is given by the I.C.S. Students' Aid Department. Through this unique organisation employers and men are brought together—as a result of its work I.C.S. students are thousands of pounds in pocket.

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"My best thanks are due to the Students' Aid Department of the I.C.S. for the assistance I received in securing an appointment. The situation is considerably more remunerative than my previous one."

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No classes to attend—moderate fees—terms arranged to suit your pocket—no extras—all books free. Send this coupon now for free details.

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Please explain, without any obligation on my part, how I can qualify to enter, or obtain a larger salary in, the occupation or profession before which I have marked X (or in the one stated here

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—Engineering (*state which*)	—Book keeping
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GOOD TOBACCO IN A BAD PIPE.

Do you know how good that tobacco you smoke really is? You do not if you smoke an ordinary pipe. Smoke it in a Bewlay Patent Pipe and see how much better it is than you have ever thought. Just a simple ivory disc (see section below) makes all the difference. It stops all nicotine or dust reaching the mouth, stops moisture reaching the tobacco from the mouth, and enables both wet and dry smokers to enjoy a cool sweet smoke. And every

BEWLAY Patent PIPE

is a splendid specimen of pipe-making—well-selected briar of fine grain, highly finished throughout, guaranteed not to split or burn with fair usage.

Obtainable in all the best and most popular shapes, bent or straight.

Gold Medal awarded, Festival of Empire, 1911.

Prices 3/6, 5/6 and 6/6.

When ordering please send rough sketch of shape required. Post free (in United Kingdom and the British Colonies) from the Makers.

Choose a "Bewlay Patent" Pipe for a Present.

Further particulars are given in our interesting Booklet. "Pipes of all Peoples," sent gratis and post free.

BEWLAY & Co., Ltd., 49, Strand, W.C.

Established 131 years.

LAST DAY FOR POSTING, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29th.

ADORI

TOILET SPECIALITIES.

Incomparable Purity and Quality.

IMPORTED FROM JAPAN

Adori Toilet Soap	per box 1s. 3d.	Adori Tooth Paste	per jar 2s. 6d.
Adori Perfume	per bottle 2s. 6d.	Adori Massage Cream	,, 2s. 6d.
Adori Powder	per box 2s. 6d.	Adori Hair Tonic	per bot. 3s. 6d.
Adori Shaving Stick	per tube 1s.		

All Postage Paid.

A complete full-sized outfit of all the above preparations will be forwarded, carriage paid, on receipt of remittance for 10s. 6d.

Second Great Present Distribution.

	VALUE
1st Prize, Magnificent Sealskin Coat,	100 Gns.
2nd Prize, Beautiful Mink Coat - -	75 ,,
3rd Prize, Handsome Persian Lamb Coat,	50 ,,
4th Prize, Choice Musquash Coat -	40 ,,
5th Prize, Elegant Sable Set - - -	40 ,,
and 245 Consolation Prizes of Beautiful Furs, &c.	

In no other country in the world are the women more famous for the delicate and wonderful beauty of their complexions than Japan, and without exception no other country suffers from such extremes in its climatic conditions.

Notwithstanding, however, the intense bitter coldness of their winter and the scorching, oppressive heat of their summer the refined, distinguished charm and the velvety peach-like softness of the women's complexions are famous the whole world over. The reason is not far to seek—the Japanese women do not affect any of the so-called skin-foods so prevalent in this country. They are taught from childhood to use a pure soap, and Adori is acknowledged to be the purest of all Japanese toilet soaps. Only recently introduced into this country, Adori will be found to be of such incomparable purity and quality that to use once will mean to use always. Exquisitely and daintily perfumed, it has a mystic and distinctive charm entirely its own.

In the present competition a further set of Seasonable Prizes will be awarded to the senders of the prettiest three Christian names for a girl.

Which do you think would be the prettiest? Names such as Gertrude, Ivy, Jessie, Kittie, Lillie, Mary, Nellie are all pretty, but you must know many such pretty or prettier names.

A committee of the prettiest actresses in London, including Miss Ada Blanche, Miss Florence Smithson, Miss Claire Romaine, Miss Madolino Rees, Miss Queenie Leighton, Miss Eileen Concanen, &c., will act as judges of the competition, and prizes will be awarded in order of merit as they decide, and whose decision must be accepted as final. Winners' names will be posted direct to every customer.

The Competition will close for JOHN BULL'S readers Thursday Febru ry 29th, and as this advertisement cannot appear again, it is advisable that orders should be posted *at once.*

MRS. WITHINGTON, The Vicarage, Great Ayton, Yorks, writes:—

"Mrs. Withington wishes to acknowledge with thanks the handsome set of furs which she received this morning from the Adori Manufacturing Company, as their third prize awarded to her in the name competition of December last. She encloses postal order for 3s. for further tablets of soap and names for the new competition."

MRS. C. HILL, Police Station, Erlswell, Brandon, Suffolk, writes:—

"Dear Sir,—I most respectfully beg to acknowledge receipt of sets of furs which have been awarded to me as Ninth Prize in Adori Competition No. 1, and for which I thank you very much. I sincerely trust that the Adori firm may have a very prosperous year. Again thanking you for my magnificent prize."

ORDER FORM. JOHN BULL, *Feb. 24.*

I enclose Postal Order and stamps for 1s. 3d., for which please send me (postage paid) one Box of Adori Soap. I think the three prettiest Christian names for a girl are:—

(1ST SELECTION). 1..... 2..... 3.....

(2ND SELECTION). 1..... 2..... 3.....

(3RD SELECTION). 1..... 2..... 3.....

FULL NAME .....

ADDRESS.....

THREE SELECTIONS OF THREE NAMES ARE ALLOWED FOR EACH SPECIALITY PURCHASED.

Orders and selections may be written on plain paper.

ADORI, King's House, Kingsway, London, W.C.

Booklet with Extracts of 4,000 Testimonials sent on receipt of stamped directed envelope.

OPEN LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.

To Mr. Oscar Hammerstein, London Opera House.

DEAR HAM.,—Straight away I'll tell you I don't think you're such a bad lot, though you have got rather poor manners. But see here, what is it you want? Do you know yourself? You're not satisfied yet, anyway. They tell me you sit in the *foyer* of your nice new hall of song, watching your patrons enter, and though middle-class London (the real IT, my boy) is tumbling over itself in its anxiety to get in, the smoke from your cigar only ascends at rare intervals. I don't know whether it is that you haven't got quite the right goods in cigars, but the newspaper guys say they can judge your humour by the volume of your smoke, and they know a bit, even in this durned country.

You said first of all you were not out for the dollars—you only wanted "recognition"—like the railwaymen. Now you've got recognition, you say it doesn't pay. You see you're a bit puzzling. You know well enough, my dear old Ham., that you can run grand opera at popular prices without loss if you like. You surely don't need me to tell you that it is the altogether exorbitant fees paid to principals that swallow up the takings. Don't go cutting down the salaries of the choristers—they get little enough, heaven knows. But pull some of the top-knotchers down a bit. Why should fatty Fausts and adipose Aidas draw such princely pay?

JOHN BULL.

To M. J. E. Pinel, Connetable de St. Helier, Jersey.

M. LE CONNETABLE,—A word about that Assault-at-Arms. Some weeks ago a display was organised in the town, and it was so successful, and so much desire was expressed for a repetition, that the organisers proposed holding another. Now the Chief Magistrate of the Island (*why* do you call him the Bailiff?), who has to license all public performances, was applied to for the usual permit. It appears he consulted you, and you advised him to withhold permission, *on the ground that such an entertainment would take too much money from the public, who could not afford it.* The Bailiff was weak enough to allow himself to be influenced by your views, and withheld his permission, although the only reason why his consent is necessary at all is to assure that the performance shall be a fit and proper one, that the building in which it is held is suitable, and that there is no risk of a breach of the peace, or an outbreak of fire, or any other public danger.

Really I don't know what to say to you. You appear to be a killjoy of the most virulent type. At present it appears that you could close all theatres, picture shows, concerts and every form of entertainment on similar grounds, and I don't think it is good for you to have that power. I am not surprised that some of the Islanders want a Royal Commission appointed to enquire into the administration.

What they really require is a Business Government.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Alfred Grover, Whitehall Rooms, London.

DEAR ALFRED,—Pressure of business prevented my accepting your thoughtful invitation to the Whitehall Rooms to hear you "give a full account of the most astounding sacred discoveries the world has ever known," but I gather that you gave your audience—what there was of it—a very creepy time. It seems that one evening you went to bed, and you had not been there very long before you felt yourself rising out of your body, and having looked at it "lying there so still," you passed out of the window, flew beyond the Mystic Veil, took a trip to the World of the Magicians, caught the connection in time to visit the world of the Dark Sea, afterwards booked to the World of Flame, called on the King and Queen, finally making a special journey to Hades, where you found the place exceedingly crowded; you then ran up against a Great Beast, who dislocated every bone in your body with his lips (I thought that body was still in bed!) and then poured you away from his mouth like shapeless water, and finally dropped you to earth again in a sweat of fear. What *had* you been having for supper?

JOHN BULL.

To Major F. S. Ayre, Member of the Board of Guardians, Lynn.

MY GALLANT FRIEND,—I have heard with a great deal of pleasure that, not being satisfied with a perfunctory performance of your duties, you recently obtained admission to the casual ward at the workhouse and submitted yourself to all the normal conditions and regulations until, frozen out of your hammock by the bitter cold, you obtained your discharge at five o'clock in the morning. If, as seems probable, the result of your experiences is that the small, threadbare blanket and counterpane which alone protect the "casual" against the winter's night, in an unheated cell, is replaced by warmer covering, you will have great cause to congratulate yourself on the effectiveness of your voluntary refrigeration. If more members of Boards of Guardians sought similar experiences in the normal operations of the Poor Law, there would be fewer men of the type of the Rev. A. C. Taylor, of Chelmsford.

It seems that at Chelmsford men who have slept the previous night in the casual wards are turned out to face the world again with a breakfast of dry bread and cold water. Even in summer this is not a heartening repast, and in winter it amounts almost to a mockery of elementary humanity. Yet what did this rev. gentleman say at the meeting the other day, when a colleague on the Board suggested that the breakfast fare should be changed? "I object," he said. "The casual business is quite a trade. There is no charity in it, and no record in Heaven for it." At a venture, I should say that if there is any record in heaven for sheer insensibility the Rev. A. C. Taylor will see his name in big letters on the Day of Judgment. The casual wards of our workhouses naturally receive a great deal of human wreckage, some salvable, some not, and Guardians have to remember with what pitiless force it is driven into these havens at last. For a destitute man must not beg, he must not sleep out, he must not be found "without visible means of subsistence," and he must not sell his skill or hawk his wares without a licence. With all its defects, our Poor Law system was at least inspired by humanity, and it can hardly have been contemplated that men forced into the casual wards should be treated as if they were below the level of the beasts.

It would, I should think, do the Rev. A. C. Taylor all the good in the world to spend a night shivering in the Chemsford workhouse, to be turned out in the morning with a breakfast of dry bread, washed down with cold water. Can you induce him to try it?

JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. Thomas Million, Primitive Methodist Minister, Richmond, Yorks.

SIR,—Nobody can doubt the allegations Miss Taylor, of Hartington Street, Moss Side, Manchester, made against you, nor will anybody doubt, notwithstanding your denials, that the Manchester magistrates were right in making an order against you for the support of her child. You walked out with this girl; you got her into trouble; and when she wrote to you informing you how things were with her, you replied as such a man as you evidently are might have been expected to reply. "Your letter is an awful one," you said. "I am unable to say anything now, but I will write when the surprise has worn off. I am trying by the help of God to carry this burden myself. My heart goes out to you in your terrible position." You did not deny that you had been meeting this girl and taking her for walks. You did not deny that you wrote love letters to her. You did not openly charge her, for the same reason, with being a girl of loose character, though that is the cowardly stigma you attempted to put on her by your allegation that her story was untrue. You, who had destroyed her honour, were not manly enough to marry her and save her from her shame. For goodness sake get out of the pulpit, and stay out.

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., M.P.

DEAR MR. LAW,—Excuse me for giving you a tip. In the parliamentary game, never "explain." If you play a wrong card, never admit it. Your letter of "explanation" about the repeal of the Insurance Act was a blunder. And in this particular case it was so unnecessary. The Insurance Act is a fraud and a farce. Go for it bald-headed, as I have done—and time will justify us both.

JOHN BULL.

NOT TEMPTING ENOUGH.

THE SERPENT: "Come, Dr. Eve, it's 'rare and refreshing fruit'!"
Dr. EVE: "Yes; but there isn't enough of it to tempt me!"

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

BY VERAX.

The fear of a national strike of coal miners is at present weighing heavily on the stock markets, which under other circumstances would have received a general fillip from the prospect of an agreement between this country and Germany. It is true *Consols* have experienced a rise, but apparently chiefly on German purchases, while *India Stock* is still comparatively very cheap. *Home Rails*, of course, are more dead than alive, pending the solution of the coal problem. It seems time that the Government should try to adjust this dispute, the consequences of which threaten to be widespread, as far as the business of the country is concerned. Even the industrial market is more subdued, although *Marconis* are active. *London General Omnibus* are fluctuating between 225 and 230. Of the new 'bus companies the *Premier Omnibus* is undoubtedly the best, and anyone picking these shares up at a small discount should do well. I certainly do not recommend buying *Associated Omnibus* shares. *Kaffirs* are neglected and *Rhodesians* are but slowly recovering from the effect of "Bear" manipulation. There is, however, more business in mining specialities. Thus there is an increasing demand for *Colombian Mining and Exploration* up to 17s., and *Northern Ontario Exploration*, to which I recently drew attention at ¾, have advanced to 1⅛ on very favourable advices concerning some important deals. *Diamond Proprietary Mines* are improving at 6s. 9d.-7s. in anticipation of another three months' output which will shortly be announced by Government. All these three shares are highly promising for an early rise. *Inkran Cotton Estates* have improved to 1s. 6d.-1s. 9d. *Rubber* is firm, but *Rubber shares* are rather dull, partly on forced liquidation for Paris account. A failure there has for some time acted as a wet blanket on *South African Mines*, *Rubber shares*, *Mexican Gold Mines*, etc. *Oil shares* are advancing, and it is now an established fact that the oil war is over, the *Standard Oil Trust* having given it up in disgust.

REFLECTIONS ON THE CHARTERED REPORT—BRIGHT PROSPECTS.

My reflections upon the Chartered directors' report lead me to the conclusion that the company is now on the threshold of a career of great profit to itself, and of incalculable value to the British Empire generally. It is no mean achievement to show a surplus of £170,610 for the year ended March 31, 1911, as compared with a surplus of £22,923 for 1909-10, and against a deficit of £66,510 for 1908-9, and of £152,889 for 1907-8. Thus, as compared with 1908, the company's revenue is coming forward to the tune of £300,000 per annum, and if the present rate of progress be maintained, a round million a year revenue seems to be assured in a few years' time. There is good reason for assuming that the estimate of profits since March 31, 1911, to be stated at the meeting, will represent a very large sum. In considering the merits of a share of this kind, account must be taken less of immediate results than of future prospects, and thus we find that, on the basis of a market price of 30s. per share, Rhodesia, with an area of five times the extent of Great Britain, and with valuable railways, agricultural estates, mines, etc., is at present valued at less than £14,000,000! It is obvious, therefore, that *Chartereds* are pre-eminently a share with almost unlimited possibilities. True, the Rhodesian market appears to be in the melting-pot at present, but the leading shares offer excellent opportunities for investment at the present unduly depreciated level, and especially the new *Goldfields Rhodesian Development* (which includes the late *Rhodesia Exploration Company*), and which shares are being dealt in at 1⅛ for Special Settlement.

THE NIGERIAN TIN SPECULATION—WARE RAMPS!

The general depression in the mining market has brought out into greater relief the speculation which is going on in Nigerian tin shares. The feature of the movement is the placing of shares in all sorts of new companies, a good many of the indifferent and bad order, upon the market, for the purpose of catching the public before their appetite is completely satiated with such things. I need hardly say that these tactics meet with my unreserved condemnation, and that, before going into concerns which are launched without either a prospectus or full particulars, my readers should make the most searching investigation into their position and prospects. Even as regards the well-established companies, the greatest discrimination is now necessary, in view of the comparatively high level at which these shares now stand, as will be gathered from the following little table:—

	Lowest 1910.	Lowest 1911.	Highest 1911.	Present Quotations
Anglo-Continental (10s.)	11s. 6d.	6s. 6d.	17s. 6d.	1 1-32
Champion (5s.)	1¼	¼	1¼	1 3-16
Juga (£1)	11-16	¼	1	13-16
Lucky Chance (5s.)	17s. 6d.	¼	1 3-16	19-32
Naraguta (£1)	18s. 9d	21s. 6d.	34s.	1¼
Niger. Tin (£1)	13s. 3d.	¼	1 13-32	1 13-32
North Niger. Bauchi (£1)	11s.	3s. 6d.	15s. 6d.	4s. 6d.*
Tin Areas (5s.)	6s. 6d.	6s. 6d.	13s. 3d.	9s.

* Now 10s. shares.

The above table shows that prices have risen considerably from the low levels, and it is obvious that the rise has not been accomplished without a corresponding expansion in the Bull account. *Rayfields* are not included in the above table, but it may be pointed out that these are 5s. shares, standing at 4¾, which is, of course, an enormous premium. If I were asked for a promising share in this group, I should select *Naraguta Extended* £1 shares at ⅛ premium. This company has already produced seventeen tons of tin, and will be producing forty tons a month presently.

STEADY SUPPORT FOR OIL SHARES—SPIES AND LOBITOS REVIVAL—G. M. OILFIELDS REPORT.

Steady support has been forthcoming for oil shares, and further encouraging developments have transpired which lead me to think that this market has, barring unforeseen developments, permanently turned the corner. *Shell Transports* have given rise to a good deal of business at 89s. 3d., and all the indications go to show that the *Royal Dutch-Shell Combine* has now attained a position which makes it quite independent of the fluctuations in prices engineered by the rival *Standard Oil Trust*. Another feature is a revival in *Spies* to over 25s., and the character of the buying would indicate that the water troubles on the western plots have now been overcome. *Lobitos* have also come prominently forward again at 22s., recent developments in connection with the deep bores having evidently fulfilled expectations. The *Egyptian* group is taking a breather, but the leading shares are steady at the somewhat lower level. Almost similar conditions prevail as regards the *Maikop* division, but there can be little risk in buying *Black Sea Prefs.* at 1 xd, and *Maikop Victory* at par, in view of their steadily increasing oil production. The *G. M. Oilfields* directors' report presents an excellent record of good work done in the past, and of the ground being well laid for favourable developments in the future. In fact, a broad hint is given of preparations for the issue of an important new company in the near future. Under the circumstances, a good deal of interest attaches to the statements which will shortly be made public.

HAWTHORN MINES—A SEQUEL.

In July, 1910, this country was being flooded with circulars recommending, with all the promoters' wiles, a million shares in the Hawthorn Silver and Iron Mines, Ltd., a Canadian mine incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware, U.S.A. Mr. Julian Hawthorn, who at the time located himself at 16, St. Helen's Place, Bishopsgate Within, E.C., praised this concern as one of "the most stupendous industrial and mining deals." In view of the numerous enquiries which reached me from readers of JOHN BULL, I devoted several paragraphs to this precious scheme, strongly advising against having anything to do with the matter. This is how I concluded an article on July 30, 1910:—

> The company is not a going concern, it is not earning profits now, and the testimony of engineers who are well known on this side has not been obtained. This is quite enough to justify me in the advice to the numerous correspondents who forwarded these batches of circulars, to have nothing to do with the Hawthorn Silver and Iron Mines, and I should think that Mr. Julian Hawthorn will do well to return to the United States or Canada and peddle out his shares there. This is no place for them.

Now for the sequel. Recent cables from New York report that Mr. Julian Hawthorn, author and journalist, Mr. Quincy, ex-mayor of Boston, and three others have been brought up on charges of conspiracy and fraudulent use of the mails in connection with mining operations, it being alleged that the defendants had cleared a total of £600,000. They were admitted to bail in sums of £2,000 each. I do not wish to prejudice the case of these men, but it is evident that my advice to steer clear of the mines was correct, and has probably saved many of my readers their money. The surprising thing is that there were so many simpletons in the States.

MARINE FIBRES AND YARNS, LIMITED—A SERIOUS INDICTMENT.

Some time ago I had something unfavourable to say with regard to this concern and its entourage, and the report which is now available of the Committee of Investigation fully justifies my remarks. The company was formed in May, 1910, with a capital of £400,000, and 100,000 shares were offered for subscription at par. The Committee, however, have found that the company went to allotment without sufficient working capital, and that the whole basis upon which it was floated was nothing more than an experiment, the commercial value of which should have been tested before the issue of the prospectus. The Committee make other serious charges which constitute a grave indictment, and which should afford good grounds for proceedings against those responsible for the flotation of the company. The unfortunate people who subscribed for shares certainly appear to have substantial foundation for legal action to recover the sums paid on shares, and they ought to band together for this object. Messrs. Ernest Salaman and Co., of 62, London Wall, E.C., have been acting as solicitors to the Committee of Investigation.

The old-established financial Journal, *The Citizen*, has just changed hands, the new proprietors being The Citizen Newspaper Company. Mr. L. M. Brousson has been appointed editor and manager, and both editorial and publishing offices have been moved to 2, Copthall Buildings, London, E.C.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) *Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor*, JOHN BULL, *2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.*

(2) *Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.*

(3) *Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.*

(4) *In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.*

(5) *If inquirers wish it, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.*

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

COMPANY FLOATING.—ENQUIRER.—As long as the small registered company which you propose to float is honestly conducted, and the directors do their duty, they will not be personally liable for anything, although the failure of the company would not redound to their credit.

FOREIGN LOTTERIES.—GONDOR.—(1) I really cannot advise you in the matter of foreign lotteries, which are illegal in this country. (2) It has been forwarded to you. (3 and 4) The matter itself seems bona fide, but whether the agents are all right I cannot tell you.

AUTO-KNITTER.—AGOG.—I should think it is an excellent way of advertising, and possibly selling, these appliances, but I cannot tell you how much people can earn by working them. It would take a long time to pay for the outlay.

VALUATION OF ASSETS.—The Revenue collectors are at present so exacting that they most likely would claim taxation on the increase. You want a wide-awake solicitor to represent you in such an instance.

NILE VALLEY.—M. M. 63.—There has since been an improvement to about 5s. 6d. Hold your shares, but do not average until further news comes to hand from the property to justify such an operation.

CONSOLS.—GREEN ISLE.—It is more than usually difficult to advise as regards Consols, owing to the political unsettlement and the condition of national finances. There is, however, a movement afoot to rehabilitate the premier security, and it might be advisable to hold for a further improvement. You could then sell out to better advantage, and reinvest in, say, leading Colonial Government bonds.

BRAZILIANS.—T. W.—(1) The lottery in question is all right, but most of these intermediaries are of a shady character, and if you win a prize most of it, if not the lot, sticks to their fingers. (2) Put the money into the Brazilian 4 per cent. Loan of 1910, at 86, thus yielding over 4½ per cent.

ORE MINE SHARES.—A. M. D.—I do not advise purchase of these shares, if only for the reason that there is no market for them, so that should you ever want to sell out again you would have considerable difficulty in finding a buyer. Moreover, performances have a general habit of falling very far short of such glowing promises.

RUBBERS AND OILS.—M. F. C.—(1) The Maikop Oilfield is experiencing a general revival, and in time this should extend to the Maikop Valley. Hold your shares. (2) This rubber company has so far proved a disappointment, but an amalgamation scheme is now on the tapis which might eventually improve the position. You should keep your shares.

£1,200 INVESTMENT.—SAFETY.—As absence of depreciation is more essential than the amount of interest, your best plan would be to invest the sum in such a way that there is no risk of the former. Short-dated securities, redeemable at a fixed time at not less than par, would be the best way. Exchequer Bonds are a favourite medium for such investments, but as their date of redemption is only about three years ahead, these will not answer your purpose. Under the circumstances, your wisest course would be to place a portion of the money on deposit with one of the leading joint stock banks, such as the London County and Westminster, Parrs, London City and Midland, Lloyds, Capital and Counties, or Union of London and Smiths, and accept the offer of municipalities of the standing of Sheffield for loans at fixed rates per cent.

CALCUTTA SWEEPSTAKE.—FRATERNITY.—You cannot be a regular reader of JOHN BULL—at all events of this article—or else you would know that the Secretary of the Calcutta Turf Club will no longer, owing to a Government prohibition, issue tickets to others than members of the Club. I suppose he will send you the money back; if not, you had better write to him and remind him. I have made this announcement repeatedly.

SPECULATION IN YANKEES.—SUNBEAM.—I think you will do well not to speculate in Yankee railway options through outside brokers; you are bound to lose your money, and it would be safer to buy a few right out through a member of the Stock Exchange.

PATENT QUESTION.—A. K. (Dublin).—It is usual to first take out a provisional protection, which does not cost so much. If you like, I can give you the name of a patent agent who would act for you.

MONEY-LENDER.—M. P. (Cambridge).—Without you tell me the name of these money-lenders, I cannot do much. Why did you not enquire their terms beforehand? I do not see how you can make any alteration now.

DIAMOND PROPRIETARY MINES.—A. D. R.—This is a very good little speculation, and I have forwarded what you require.

FREEHOLD INVESTMENTS.—R. M.—I can only refer you to the article.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—H. I. (Newport).—You ought not to have any dealings with such outside brokers as Cassell and Langton, of 85, Gresham Street, E.C. The proprietors of the Equitable Exchange are now being prosecuted. You should not deal with the third firm mentioned, also outside brokers, if you do not wish to lose your money. I can give you the name of a respectable firm of stockbrokers, members of the Stock Exchange, if you wish it.

BANK SHARES.—BONNET.—The shares of the London joint stock banks are certainly an excellent investment, but there is the question of the uncalled liability, although this is a nominal matter, which keeps a good many investors out of this section. Perhaps if the example of the London and South Western Bank in rearranging their capital in order to reduce this liability were followed generally, London bank shares would become more prominent. They have the advantage that "Bear" sales of shares cannot be made.

CHILLAGOE.—GOLF.—I have told all that there has been to say. The latest news from the property is that the strikers have returned to work, and development should now go ahead again. Under the circumstances, I can only advise you to retain your shares.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER.—SOPHIE, OLD SWAN.—As your mother-in-law has signed the proposal, there is nothing illegal in it, and you must continue to pay the premiums. A. E. T. (Notting Hill).—As you insured funeral expense, this was legal. If you are doubtful, the Company will no doubt state to you that they will pay at death. W. R. (Wakefield).—Yes, write again. H. A. S. (Hull).—You do not mention the office. Who told her, the agent or the Company? R. A. (Holborn).—The Company are not bound to comply with your request, unless the head office has agreed. W. C. E.—Yes, the policy is illegal. Employ a solicitor.

JOINT LIFE INSURANCE.—CLEEBURN (Peebleshire).—(1) Yes, it would be so liable. (2) Yes. (3) Scottish Widows is distinctly preferable.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA.—W. J. K.—There ought to be a surrender value for a policy 22 years old. If you are correctly informed, however, you will have to go on paying. J. R. S.—We regret that we cannot ourselves undertake litigation for you. A. B. Z.—You had better keep on paying, if the Company state to you that they will pay at death. Policy returned.

MOST SUITABLE LIFE OFFICE.—L. P. (Delabole).—Royal, Liverpool, London and Globe, Scottish Widows or North British and Mercantile.

ROYAL LONDON FRIENDLY.—T. AND A. (Bow).—Your wife signing for your son, and against the latter's will, makes the policy illegal. If the Society was cognisant of this, you could claim the return of premiums. Consult a solicitor.

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE.—N. M.—The policy is illegal, and you should be able to recover, if it is as you state. G. L. McD.—Policy should be all right if the payments have been kept up. It is returned to you. H. R. T.—It is illegal, but the Company will probably give you a positive assurance that they will pay at death. EMMA W.—Yes, this policy is illegal. You must decide yourself whether to continue payments on the Company's assurances or go to law.

REFUGE ASSURANCE.—R. B. (Dartford).—The district superintendent had no business to act as he did. Policy is illegal, as there is no insurable interest. Consult a local solicitor. J. R. (Southport).—These are the chances of life assurance, but because you have paid more in premiums than the sum assured, that does not give you any special right. You must keep on paying. HALIFAX (Newtown).—You should have a good claim. Consult a local solicitor. CHATHAM.—(1) Yes, the Company are acting correctly. (2) Yes. (3) No doubt she could deduct her payments. (4) No.

NATIONAL STANDARD.—PERPLEXED.—Quite a young, small office. But I suppose you have little choice in the matter.

GLOUCESTER.—SHEFFIELD.—Have nothing to do with this Society, but insure with one of the large offices.

SCOTTISH LEGAL.—E. C. (Kingstown).—As the collector no longer calls, write to the head office, and state your case.

WIGAN VICTORIA LEGAL.—JOHNNY GET YOUR GUN.—You can do nothing more than what you have done.

POLICY TAKEN OUT BY MOTHER.—H. B.—This is all right, as the daughter signed.

ROYAL LONDON ASSURANCE.—NINON.—Write direct to the head office. State the case, and come to some agreement.

CASUALTIES.—GWALIA.—An obscure concern. Have nothing to do with it.

NATIONAL BENEFIT TRUST.—T. W.—As you have allowed the policy to lapse, you have lost all right. You had better ask for some consideration in reviving the policy, which is returned.

JOINT LIFE POLICY.—BARNSLEY.—This was very foolish. He should ask the Company to alter the policy, or else they would not pay at death, when marriage certificate would have to be produced.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE CO.—A. H. (Cardiff).—It is impossible to advise without fuller particulars. P. M. (Mayfield).—If the assured did not sign the proposal form, the money could be recovered. Otherwise we do not advise proceedings. J. E. F. (Hull).—Try the Norwich Union. J. A. S. (Ardwick).—You could recover on proving the facts in the County Court. J. N. S. (Edinburgh).—If you can clearly prove fraud you can recover. We do not advise proceedings. A. C. (Plumstead).—Write to the Company, stating the facts, and sue unless the premiums paid by you are immediately restored. GAINSBOROUGH.—The policy is legal. P. J. (Hull).—You cannot recover unless proposals were forged. PRO (Stoke Newington).—Your policy is legal.

It is requested that all letters sent us relating to the validity of policies held in the Prudential be marked on the envelope "Prudential." Owing to the thousands of enquiries which have been received, some little delay is dealing with them is unavoidable, but every endeavour in being made to expedite matters.

CHARACTER DELINEATIONS.

BY OUR TAME PHRENOLOGIST.

We have engaged, at enormous expense, an eminent phrenologist—who is, withal, a deep student of current problems—to "feel the bumps" of prominent public men, for the benefit of our readers. How he manages to secure the "sittings" is his own secret.]

THE RT. HON. A. BONAR LAW, M.P.

Good morning, sir; you are the last gentleman I expected to see. But, there, the busiest men often have the most time to spare, I find. Method: that's the thing, sir; system. And so the cold shades of Opposition have not chilled your ardour for interests intellectual? Good; I am pleased to know it. But I venture to suggest, sir, that your visit is not altogether lacking in serious business purpose. Parliament having reopened, and there being every prospect of a strenuous session, you are anxious to know whether your mental equipment will carry you through the Party combat with credit and success. Ah! I thought as much. Sit down; sit down, sir, and we will see.

Here's the type of Scotch head I like to handle, sir—hard, firm, compact. You've a fine bump of *Combativeness*—but no *Destructiveness*; so I venture to conclude that you do not fight for the sheer love of strife, but with a constructive purpose before you, as befits a statesman who claims to be more than a mere politician—a business man, to wit.

But you must be careful, sir, your bump of *Caution* is not so fully developed as it might be. This slight defect led you into that little blunder on the opening day of the session, when you fell rather badly into Asquith's trap, and declared that the first job of the Conservative Party when you are returned again to power will be to repeal the Insurance Act. This was indiscreet. It rejoiced the hearts of the Radical Party; and although you sent your letter of explanation round to the newspapers as soon as you possibly could, an incident of that sort has a knack of resisting qualification and defying oblivion. You must be careful, sir. Having drawn you so neatly once, your political foes will be trying to trip you up again. So cultivate your bump of *Cautiousness*. You will need it this session, if you have never needed it before.

"Your bump of *Caution* is not so fully developed as it might be."

I must congratulate you on your *Wit*. That organ, which helps to fill out your forehead here above the eyes, is a conspicuous feature of your character. I cannot say that it is of the very finest quality; but it is of an eminently useful sort—mordant, and calculated to make your antagonists squirm uneasily at times. I recommend you to cultivate carefully this talent. It will repay your efforts.

Now, sir, we come to the little association of organs which distinguish you from the common type of Party politician. I refer to your bumps of *Eventuality*, *Causality*, and *Comparison*, which cluster together here in the middle of your forehead. These are the essential faculties of the business man, the man of affairs. They made you a successful ironmaster, they should make you a successful politician of the new school of thought, namely, business principles in government for a business people. Let these organs operate, sir, and they may help you to lead the country further along the path of true progress than you dream of.

Good day, sir; and good luck! and remember my little warning—"Caution is true valour."

UNWITNESSED WILLS.

[*This is a companion feature to our "Anticipated Epitaphs"—and is just as authentic.*]

This is the Last Will and Testament
— of me —

DAVID LLOYD GEORGE, of Brynawelon, Criccieth, in the county of Carnarvon, gentleman.

I HEREBY REVOKE all former testamentary dispositions made by me.

FIRST, in view of the overcrowded condition of that building, I desire that my remains shall *not* be interred in Westminster Abbey. I request instead that I may be quietly buried in the backyard of the little chapel at Criccieth, and that my bones be planted "dwfn, dwfn, lawr," as the great Welsh poet, Dyved Lewys, has it.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto the inhabitants of Limehouse a gramophone record of the speech I delivered to them on a certain historic occasion, requesting that on each anniversary of the delivery of the said speech the said record be "turned on" from the balcony of the Town Hall, for the edification and delight of the admiring multitude who will forgather for the purpose of listening to one of the greatest orations of this or any age.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto my successors at the Exchequer the original draft of Form IV., in the hope that a frequent perusual thereof will inspire them in their yearly endeavour to produce a Budget sufficiently mystifying and complicated to assure the lawyers abundant and profitable labour in the elucidation of the same.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto the Royal Society the original calculations by means of which I arrived at the epoch-making discovery of the possibility of giving Ninepence in exchange for Fourpence, preserving at the same time a balance on the right side. I desire that these historic papers shall be deposited in the case that enshrines the original calculations of Newton, by which were demonstrated the existence of the law of gravitation.

I GIVE, BEQUEATH, AND DEVISE unto the Royal Horticultural Society the last remaining Pip of the rare and refreshing fruit which, after much strenuous grafting, I succeeded in cultivating in the Spring of the year 1911, and conveyed to the parched lips of the multitude towards the close of the following year.

I GIVE, BEQUEATH, AND DEVISE unto the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, the last specimen, preserved in spirit, of the rare and refreshing fruit before mentioned, desiring that the same shall be labelled *Codlin Lloyd Georgii*.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto the Kitchen Committee of the House of Commons a recipe for making Welsh Rarebit that will be agreeable to the palates of Welsh Members of Parliament.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto Wilkie Bard the sum of five pounds as a token of appreciation for the manner in which he succeeded in pronouncing the name of a certain Welsh railway station.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto Lord Haldane of Cloan sufficient of my hair to make him a wig.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH the sum of five hundred pounds unto any person who shall write a book to prove the virtue of passive resistance in connection with religious education, and its wickedness when practised by doctors with respect to my great National Insurance Act, provided the said book satisfies the requirements of my executors.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto the Police Commissioner the sum of one thousand pounds, the said money to be devoted to an investigation of the mystery attending my Land Taxes, which involved an expenditure of over £300,000 to collect something like £20,000.

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

ONE OF THE "OLD GUARD."

"I am an ex-soldier, having done 13 years," writes one of our readers, "and I have been registered in the National Reserve for nine months. It is now four years since my health broke down. Six weeks ago my wife got the parish doctor to see me, and after examination he ordered my removal to the infirmary, as I was suffering from phthisis." How many poor old fellows of this description are in the National Reserve? They make a most imposing show on paper, but would they be of use in the field?

IS BALZAC IMMORAL?

Should his works be expurgated?

It is a matter of common knowledge that the recent announcement of an edition of that great French author, Balzac, in its complete and unexpurgated form caused a considerable stir in certain quarters.

Fortunately, however, the publication is now an accomplished fact. For, though the prurient-minded may see wrong where none is meant—and Balzac certainly did write of Nature as he found it—it would have been a thousand pities if the public had been deprived of this, its first chance of reading Balzac as he meant to be read.

THE NAPOLEON OF LITERATURE.

For Balzac was to literature what Napoleon was to arms—a man of giant brain who saw all life, all character, and all events as material to be turned into stories, and who did not believe that there were any events that could not be told with advantage. And so his novels make their appeal to all.

BALZAC'S BEST NOVELS.

And all those who realise this will hasten to take advantage of the offer of his Best Novels in 14 volumes, specially selected by that famous Balzacian, Mr. Clement Shorter, Editor of the *Sphere*.

CLEMENT SHORTER'S CHOICE.

Cousin Bette.	The Lily of the Valley.
Cousin Pons.	The Illustrious Gaudissart.
La Duchesse de Langeais.	The Village Cure.
The House of the Cat and Racket.	The Country Doctor.
Gobseck.	The Magic Skin.
Old Goriot.	The Unknown Masterpiece.
Eugenie Grandet.	

WHAT "UNEXPURGATED" MEANS.

"Something has been said of the fact that the publishers advertise that their Balzac is 'unexpurgated.' This is of the utmost importance. The charge that a translator 'betrays' is justified where there is a prurient attempt to modify and alter phrases in the interests of Mrs. Grundy. Nothing can justify that. When face to face with a great classic we want the book as near as possible as the author presented it.

"Altogether it would be impossible to speak too highly of the excellence of translation of this edition of Balzac's novels."

The whole forms 14 fine volumes, handsomely bound in green and gold. The illustrations are by many of the foremost French artists, and the frontispieces are etchings printed from copper-plates. The originals were exhibited in the Salon.

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Please send me, free of charge, and without any obligation on my part, detailed prospectus of "Balzac's Best Novels," with your offer to deliver the complete work for a first payment of 2/6 only.

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....

.....

DICKENS, SCOTT, THACKERAY & SHAKESPEARE.

Who are the Four Masters?

"I have been asked," says John o' London, "to say something about four household names in British literature—four writers who, more certainly than any others, comprise the National Mind. Already you have uttered—have you not?—the names of William Shakespeare, Sir Walter Scott, Charles Dickens, and William Makepeace Thackeray. While these writers reflect in their works nearly all that is salient in the National Mind, they are also the most *serviceable* writers of whom one can have intimate knowledge. They are the most widely loved and the most frequently quoted."

So writes John o' London, and very welcome will be the news that beautiful editions of any one or all of these four Masters can be obtained for a first payment of 2s. 6d. These four beautiful and serviceable editions possess distinctive features—standard biographies of authors, specially written introductions, notes, and unique editorial arrangements generally.

The London Dickens, in 30 vols., includes the "Life of Dickens," by F. G. Kitton, specially written for this edition; it has some valuable Portraits of Dickens and his friends. The Illustrations include 104 exquisitely Coloured Plates, and over 200 fine plates in black and white; the Original Drawings by Cruikshank, Leech, "Phiz," Seymour, and Cattermole are also here.

The Melrose Waverley, in 27 volumes, includes the "Famous Life of Scott," by Lockhart; Sir Walter's own Notes, as in the original edition; and a Glossary of Scots words. The Illustrations include an unrivalled Series of Paintings, Coloured Frontispieces specially painted for the Melrose Waverley, and Reproductions of Great Pictures inspired by the Waverley Novels.

The Windsor Shakespeare, in 20 volumes, includes, by special arrangement, the Notes and Introductions to each play contained in the famous Harvard Edition. There is a fine Life of Shakespeare. The Illustrations include 27 beautiful Coloured Plates, 13 magnificent Rembrandt Portraits of the greatest Shakespearean Actors and Actresses, and 80 exquisitely produced Plates of the most famous Shakespearean Pictures.

The London Thackeray, in 20 volumes, is uniform in appearance with the London Dickens. It includes the only authoritative "Life of Thackeray," and each novel has a valuable introduction. Thackeray's own Drawings are included, many of which are, for the first time, reproduced in colour.

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Lord Morley once said that it was a matter for regret that there are so many houses in England—some of considerable social pretension—where you will not find a good Encyclopædia of Reference. "That is a very discreditable fact," he said, "because I defy anybody to take up a single copy of the newspaper and not come upon something in it upon which if his interest in the affairs of the day were active, intelligent, and alert as it ought to be, he would consult a Cyclopædia of Reference."

WHAT CHAMBERS'S CONTAINS.

The "Illustrated Chambers's Encyclopædia" is the *only* work that really fulfils this purpose. Its contributors include 1,000 of the most famous men of our time, and between them they deal with every detail of human knowledge.

It consists of ten handsome half-leather volumes, 200,000 subjects, with cross-references, 8,000 pages of new, clear type, written by 1,000 contributors of world-wide distinction. There are 4,000 engravings, superbly reproduced, and 50 magnificent maps. There are also over 50 coloured plates, the finest ever produced in connection with any work of reference.

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Chambers's is the only Encyclopædia that is always up-to-date. It is a standard work, being sold every day, and constantly being reprinted, so that at each reprinting it is possible to correct it and to bring it up-to-date. For instance, it contains articles by Sir E. Shackleton on the Antarctic, by Major Baden Powell on Aeroplanes and Ballooning, and many other subjects of topical interest at the present moment.

TWO OPINIONS.

A. Bonar Law, Esq., M.P., writes:
"I have long had in my library the previous edition of Chambers's 'Encyclopædia,' which I have found invaluable. I am sure I shall find the new edition no less interesting and useful."

Max Pemberton, the well-known Author, writes on November 27th, 1911:
"The 'Illustrated Chambers's Encyclopædia' is invaluable to me in all my literary work. I have the greatest admiration for it. Recently I purchased another Encyclopædia, but upon turning to it for a particular piece of information I found that I had to go back to Chambers after all. I rarely fail to find there just the information I am seeking."

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Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....

.....

ANTICIPATED EPITAPHS.

By W. M.

[In this column we give from week to week an anticipatory —always good-humoured—Epitaph of some celebrity of the day. We need scarcely say we hope it will be many years before his relatives will have to consider seriously our suggestion.]

Thys tombe
Contayns
Ye mortal remaynes
Of one
Sir Henry Lucy,
A Radickall journalyft
Whoo made some little noife in hys daie.
Born
Anno Domini 1845,
Hee was educated atte ye Crefcent Schoole,
Liverpoole,
Eventuallie expreſsynge hys gratitude for
Ye excellent inſtruckcion hee hadde received
Atte thatte seminarie
Bye
Marrynge ye Headmaſter's daughter.
Butte thatte bee bye ye waie.
As a yoothe
Hee was apprentyced to a Liverpudlian merchante
Butte
Havynge contrackted ye diſtreſsynge diſeaſe
Knowne to ye fackultie as
Cacoethes scribendi,
Or,
Ye Wryter's itch,
Hee clymbed downe from hys offyce stoole
And joyned ye staffe ot
Ye Shrewſbury Chronickle,
Anno Domini 1864.
Atte lengthe,
Tyred of reportynge locale cattle showes,
Sales of Stocke,
And
Outbreakes of sheepe ticke and swyne feaver,
Hee came to London
And joyned ye staffe of
Ye Olde Ladye of Bouverie Streete,
Thatte is to saye
Ye Dailie News,
Anno Domini 1873,
Wrytynge a Parliamentarie Summarie
Eache daie
For thatte dear olde soule.
Havynge gotte over ye fyrſt serioufneſs of yoothe
And beynge anxious to counterackt ye melanckolie
Occaſioned bye wrytynge for
Ye Cocoa Press,
Hee tyed a ruffle rounde hys necke,
Wagged hys taile
(Figuratyvelie speakynge),
And applyde for ye jobbe of
Dogge Toby
On ye staffe of Punch.
There beynge no competitors,
Hee gotte ye jobbe,
And commenced to bark weeklie in its pages
Under ye tytle of
"Essence of Parliament."
Towards ye cloſe of hys lyfe
Hee became garrulous wythe bookes,
Mainlie Parliamentarie reminiſcencies,
Ye whyche hee turned out
Ad nauseam.
Then,
Barkynge hys tiresome politickal joakes
To ye ende,
Hee made hys waie to Hythe
Turned round three tymes,
Lay hymſelfe downe,
And dyed.

No more will Toby's yelp bee hearde,
No more hys tricks will he diſplaye,
From Father Tyme hee's gotte "ye birde,"
And mingles wythe ye claye.

How To 'Shed' a Bad Complexion

(From Woman's Realm.)

It's foolish to attempt to cover up or hide a sallow complexion, when you can so easily remove the sallowness, or the complexion itself. Rouge and the like on a brownish skin only emphasise the defect. The better way is to apply pure mercolized wax—the same as you would cold cream—putting it on at night, removing it in the morning with warm water and soap, following with a dash of cold water. The effect of a few applications is simply marvellous. The half-dead cuticle is absorbed by the wax—painlessly, gradually, in tiny imperceptible particles—revealing the beautiful velvety white new skin beneath.

No woman need have a sallow, blotchy, pimply or freckled complexion, if she will just go to the chemist's, get some good mercolized wax and use as suggested.

GRAVES

IMPERIAL SILVER ENGLISH LEVER

is British-made, has jewelled escapement, Automatic Chronometer Balance, Breguet Hairspring, and all recent perfections. The Cases are well proportioned, closely fitting, and are heavily wrought from Solid English Hall-marked Silver. Warranted Five Years.

2/6 WITH ORDER

WE DELIVER this magnificent English Lever to all approved orders for 2/6 with order. 2/6 on delivery if satisfied, and balance in 10 monthly payments of 4/- Money refunded if the Watch is not considered entirely satisfactory. 2/- in the £ Discount for Cash.

CATALOGUE FREE. Send a Post Card for our handsomely Illustrated Art Catalogue of Ladies' and Gent's Gold and Silver Watches, Lovely Jewellery, and an enormous variety of beautiful and useful goods for presents at economical prices. Ask for Catalogue D

J. G. GRAVES Ltd. SHEFFIELD.

Rexine

That distinctive note in furnishing indicative of comfort and good taste is given to every room by Rexine-Upholstered furniture.

For **REXINE** in appearance is leather with the same grains and colourings.

In wear **REXINE** is superior to any covering you can have. It is stainproof, can be made like new by simply washing, and does not crack or peel.

The use of **REXINE** results in a saving of cost—in price it is only one quarter that of leather.

REXINE is extensively used by the British, Colonial and Foreign Governments.

Your furnishing house will gladly supply you with patterns.

In case of difficulty write:

THE BRITISH LEATHER CLOTH MANUFACTURING CO., LTD., HYDE, NR. MANCHESTER.

P 15

"MRS. BULL."
AN IDEAL PAPER FOR WOMEN.

CATALOGUE 1912.

We have just published a new catalogue for 1912 which deals in every detail with every requisite for complete house furnishing. It contains over 600 illustrations, and we shall be pleased to post one free on application.

Any article illustrated may be obtained on our well-known Gradual Payment System, the payments extending over one, two or three years at the option of the purchaser. No deposit is required and we do not add interest nor make any extra charge whatsoever.

Sheraton design Mahogany inlaid China Cabinet, lined shelves and back.

£4-4-0

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10	6 0
20	11 0
50	1 8 0
100	2 5 0
200	4 10 0
500	11 5 0
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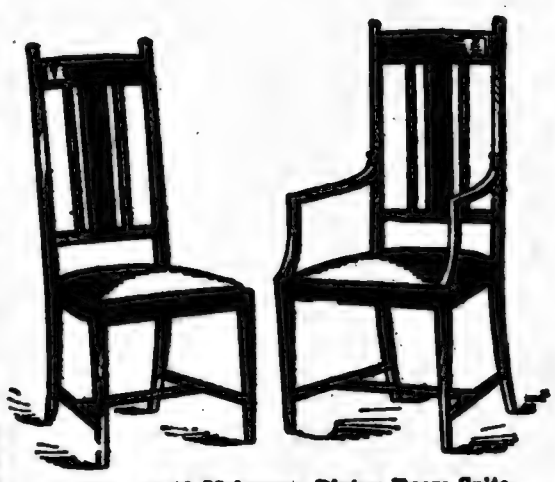
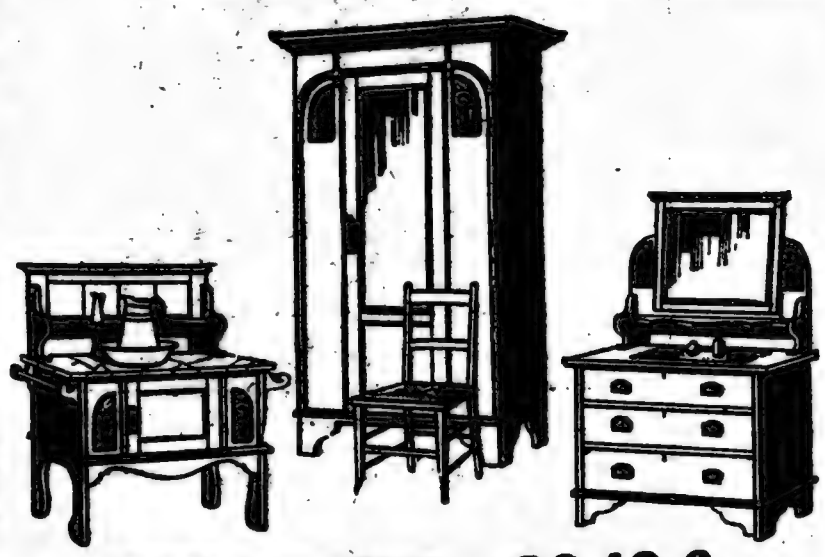
Or by other proportionate payments to suit purchaser's convenience.



8-piece inlaid Mahogany Dining Room Suite, with loose seats, covered in various materials.

£9-17-6

the set.



Inexpensive and roomy Bedroom Suite in Oak, as illustrated, including 2 rush seated Chairs ...

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Five per cent. discount for cash.

All goods are marked in plain figures.

In order that Country Customers may make a personal selection we will pay their fares to town on all orders of £30 and upwards.

Country orders packed and delivered free.

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IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

By WALTER MOORE.

[In this column our contributor has an imaginary interview with some celebrity of the day.]

ARCHDEACON COLLEY.

Depressed by the weather that has recently been inflicted on London, and desiring a strong mental tonic, I determined to seek refreshment in an interview with the notorious Archdeacon Colley, who recently resigned the living of Stockton in the diocese of Worcester.

"This is a far, far better thing than you have ever done," I declared, as I was ushered into the study where the gruesome Archdeacon was reclining comfortably in his coffin, reading Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.

The Archdeacon threw a gaitered leg over the wooden side of his last home, and asked me what I might mean and who the—er, ahem!—I was.

I produced my credentials, in the shape of a copy of the current JOHN BULL, the possession of which, in my opinion, is an excellent temporary substitute for the Certificate of Citizenship which the first genuine Business Government is going to give us.

"I refer to your res'gnation," I explained. "The days when our spiritual shepherds considered it necessary to make the flesh of their flocks creep, are done. Now, when we want a dose of the horrors we go to the theatre, or the Old Bailey; but we visit church to be cheered with bright music and the latest fashions in millinery."

The Archdeacon threw his second leg over the side of his coffin and sat up.

"You speak more truly than you are aware," said the uncanny cleric, solemnly. "The theatre is usurping the place of the Church as the instrument of morality and religion. It was my desire to change all that, at any rate, in my own parish. But the prejudice of my bishop could not be overcome, and I was constrained to send in my resignation."

"You may have had some sort of motive for your morbid display," I returned, "but whatever it was, it could not justify your making your church a sort of Chamber of Horrors. Do you not realise that the sight of your being carried down the aisles in a coffin, with your face glaring, ghost-like, through the glass front, may have had a permanent disastrous effect upon some nervous, highly-strung women and children? Religious mania is the worst and most hopeless form of insanity, and the spectacle you provided was just the sort of thing to excite it in the predisposed. In my opinion, you should have been severely punished for your impious and mischievous display; and as for the fools who lent a hand to cart you round your church, they also should have been dealt with sternly for aiding and abetting you in your mad trick."

"The signficance of my action has evaded your obtuse intelligence," said the Archdeacon, rising and pushing his coffin under the table with his foot.

"I think not," I retorted, gazing at him fixedly. "But it appears to have evaded the obtuse intelligence of the Lunacy Commissioners."

"Your insinuation may pass for the present," said the Archdeacon, "but depend upon it, the first opportunity I have I will haunt you."

"You had better reserve that for Mr. Maskelyne," I replied. "He would enjoy the experience."

"Leave me, wretched sceptic," cried the Archdeacon. "I would return to my coffin to meditate."

"All right," I said, "stay there as long as you like. I'm off to the Red Lion to get a snack of bread and cheese and a half of bitter."

THE MYSTERIOUS PROCESSES BY WHICH HUMAN LIFE IS MAINTAINED.

We know that a huge dose of poison may be swallowed by a hedgehog, when it is off to sleep for the winter. Sleep it will; and the dose of poison does no harm in its stomach, lying there as if it were in the hedgehog's waistcoat pocket. But when the suspended activities are renewed in the spring, the poison really enters the living hedgehog and kills it.

In a word, we live—or die, as the case may be—not by what we swallow, but by what we digest and absorb—not by what fills us, but by what feeds us.

MAN AND THE MUG.

You cannot fill the body with food as you fill a mug with milk. The mug merely holds the milk, but does not absorb it. The milk never becomes part of the china which encloses it. But your food, if it is to nourish you, must become part of your body; and your body is made up of living cells, which behave just as men and women do when food is set before them. They choose and refuse, taste and reject, or taste and gobble. The mug could be filled at any time; but the cells—being alive—cannot be fed except when they are willing to eat. Unless these cells do their work, the food is not absorbed—just as, when you visit a prison, you may walk through the corridors and leave the building again, without being held back in the cells.

THE STOMACH IS A CHURN AND AN OVEN—BUT NOT A SIEVE.

Food is not absorbed in the stomach. The stomach is a receptacle, a churn, and an oven. It is not a sieve. It holds and mixes and cooks what you have eaten. But it cannot sift the nourishing part of food into your flesh and blood nor finally reject the waste. When its work is done, it merely passes the food on to the bowel, where the vital act of absorption takes place.

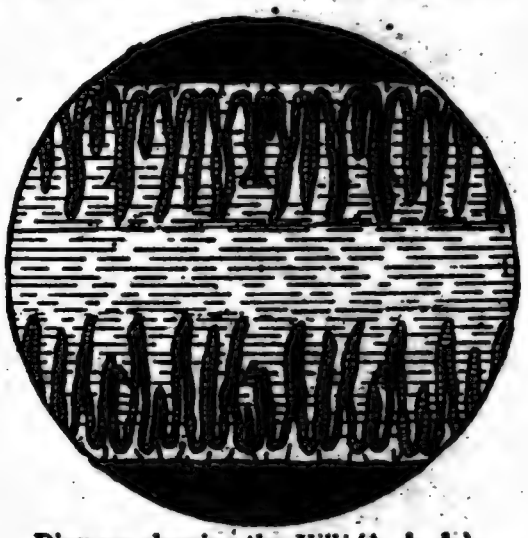

Diagram showing the *Villi* (A. A. A.).

Here the surface is studded with countless projections, called *villi*, covered with minute cells. These cells take the food that passes over them, selecting just what suits their purpose. They break down ox or wheat proteins into little pieces, and then build the pieces up differently, so as to make human proteins—the special proteins that are found in the blood of man and nowhere else in the world. These proteins are carried by the blood throughout the whole body, and are deposited and employed where they are most needed to build up flesh and muscle.

SETTING THE VILLI TO WORK.

The question of how to assist the cells to convert into human proteins more of the food passing over them has long been a problem of science, but the recent series of remarkable feeding experiments carried out on human beings have at last thrown a new light on the subject. They have shown that Bovril will do this. For they have proved that the body absorbs extra nourishment to the extent of from 10-20 times the amount of Bovril added to other food.

As has already been explained, the body normally absorbs a part only of the nourishment in the food taken. Bovril, however, not only is a food in itself, but increases the amount of other food absorbed. The experiments have proved that Bovril contains an active principle, by virtue of which it so acts upon the cells of the *villi* that they are enabled to perform with greater thoroughness their work of extracting nourishment from what we eat.

Bovril, in other words, is proved to be

NOT ONLY A FOOD BUT A FEEDER.

You can fill the stomach with food, but neither *you* nor anyone else can make the body absorb it. But the experiments have shown that Bovril can and will do so. In Bovril you have the means of ensuring the proper absorption of food—of ensuring that the body shall be built up and fortified to resist infection and overcome disease, and to be healthy and strong.

DRAPERY BY INSTALMENTS!

GREAT ADVERTISING OFFER FOR FOURTEEN DAYS ONLY.

2/- DEPOSIT and 2/- monthly secures the Greatest Bargain in the World. A whole Bale-Full of Necessary Household Articles for £1

The British Clothing Club,

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Are desirous of making their Name and Goods popular in every home in the country, and in order to advertise their new premises as above are offering **A FIFTY SHILLINGS BALE OF DRAPERY GOODS FOR A SOVEREIGN,** which can be paid for at **TWO SHILLINGS PER MONTH.**

THE WONDERFUL BALE OF DRAPERY CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES:

		Usual price.
1	Pair of Superior White Yorkshire Blankets, large size, beautifully soft, warm, and comfortable.	10/11
1	Pair of Soft Twill Sheets, large size, Splendid make and quality.	5/11
1	Magnificent White Honeycomb Quilt, full size, splendid design, with fancy knotted fringed edge.	5/6
1	Pair of Beautiful White Nottingham Lace Curtains, Viennese floral design, 3 yards long.	4/11
1	Pair of Lovely Cream Curtains, Parisian art designs, 3 yards long (Both Pairs alike if desired).	4/11
1	Splendid Dining Room Tablecloth, white Damask.	4/-
1	Splendid Alhambra Shawl, useful and warm.	3/6
1	Beautiful sideboard cover, elaborate Needlework design.	1/11
6	Lovely Damask Table Centres	1/11
2	Large Turkish Towels.	2/-
6	Splendid White Hemstitched Handkerchiefs (Gent.'s)	2/6
6	Do. Do. (Ladies')	2/-
	Total	£2/10/0

Our Price for the Bale, containing all 32 articles as above, £1 only

Our great offer for these goods is for 14 days only from the date of this publication; and as our main object is to establish our business by supplying the above quantity of goods for the low sum of £1, customers are sure of getting for once in a way a huge and genuine bargain. Furthermore, in order to enable everyone to avail themselves of the opportunity of purchasing such a marvellous bargain bale, **THE BRITISH CLOTHING CLUB** have decided to send these goods **packed free to any address on receipt of 2s.** deposit and the balance (18s. only) at **2s. PER MONTH**; relying on the public to appreciate the value and recommend us to their friends and relatives.

We must impress upon you the fact that every one of the articles enumerated above are fresh, clean, and NEWEST GOODS (no old stock), and are of guaranteed quality, so that customers can depend on every article giving satisfaction.

We shall willingly exchange any article or return money in full if the goods are not sent in the bale as advertised. Remember, our object is to make our name and goods known throughout the country by giving great value for money, and making each purchaser a regular customer.

Customers who prefer to send Cash with Order will receive a Handsome Present as Bonus.

Send Your Order Now. Do Not Delay and Miss the Greatest Bargain Ever Advertised.

Ladies know that a Sovereign does not go very far in Drapery when shopping.

SEND A POUND TO US AND YOU WILL BE SURPRISED AND DELIGHTED WITH OUR BALE OF GOODS.

Each article is a necessity in every home, and you will require them at some time or other but the opportunity may not occur again to buy so cheaply and so conveniently. Send a postcard for our interesting catalogue of other bargains on monthly terms.

HOW TO SEND YOUR ORDER FOR THE MARVELLOUS SOVEREIGN BALE.

Cut out the Order Form and enclose Postal Order for amount of deposit. If more than one Bale is required, additional deposits must be enclosed.
Write your Name and Address fully and plainly so that the parcel is sure to reach you.
The parcel is sent packed free direct to your door.
We undertake to return your money in full if the goods are not sent in the parcel as advertised.

2/- DEPOSIT AND 2s. MONTHLY SECURES OUR WONDERFUL SOVEREIGN BALE.

If other goods of the same price are required in place of those stated above please put down in space marked X on order form what is wanted, and, if possible, we will send them, although we cannot guarantee to do so.

Address your Order fully and plainly. Always keep the counterfoil of Postal Order. CUT HERE

Fill up this Form Carefully and send with Postal Order at Once.

ORDER FORM.

(A Letter is unnecessary.)

To the BRITISH CLOTHING CLUB,
74, Oldham Street, Manchester. *Date*.....

I wish to secure ..... of your Bargain Bales as advertised for £1 each, for which I enclose postal order value ..... as deposit, and promise to send you the balance at ..... per month by postal order. The goods to be sent to my address as follows:—

FULL NAME .....
FULL ADDRESS .....
TOWN.....
NEAREST RAILWAY STATION .....
NUMBER OF POSTAL ORDER .....
X ..... JOHN BULL, 24-2-12.

SPURIOUS SYMPOSIUMS.

SUPPOSITITIOUS REPLIES OF PROMINENT PEOPLE.

[*It is our custom to hold a weekly—imaginary—symposium upon some topic of the hour, giving the views of representative men.*]

TOBACCO.

It seemed to us fitting that our recent symposium on the vexed question of Alcohol should be followed by one on the subject of Tobacco. Our select band of symposiasts have risen nobly to the occasion, as will be seen from the following letters :—

To MR. GEORGE BERNARD SHAW, invariably the most dogmatic of our correspondents, we give first place :—

I do not smoke, and hate to see other people indulging in the detestable habit. I have several reasons for not smoking. First, I tried to once, and have not forgotten the experience. Another reason why I do not smoke is that I see no sense in it. The man who keeps a dog and does his own barking is properly reckoned a fool. On the same principle, I maintain that a man who feeds a fireplace with coal at famine prices, and then does his own smoking, is an irredeemable idiot.

MR. G. K. CHESTERTON seems to have suspected something of the foregoing. He says :—

I hope you have not asked that ginger-whiskered, jaeger-clad puritan commonly known as "G. B. S." to take part in this symposium. He has a constitutional aversion from tobacco, arising from his nut diet. Nut eaters rarely smoke. They can't stomach it. Who ever saw a monkey smoking, except on the stage? Smoking inspires me. As I watch the blue-grey spirals from my pipe or cigar gyrating gracefully in mid air, all sorts of quaint, paradoxical and eccentric turns and expressions are suggested to my mind. That's because I have some imagination. Now, "G. B. S." has no imagination. He simply sees things as they are, not as they ought to be. That's because his liver won't permit him to smoke.

MISS MARIE CORELLI is charmingly candid—not to say *naïf*—for once. Says she :—

I must confess to a liking for the aroma of tobacco—under certain conditions. I do not indulge in smoking myself, but I freely admit that if I was compelled to pass much time in the company of a man I would prefer to be with one whose rough tweed jacket was permeated with the mingled odour of peat and tobacco-smoke. I once dreamed of the joy of laying my cheek against such a garment, and breathing deep breaths of that peculiarly masculine perfume. Who knows? It may be, even yet.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE is suspiciously enthusiastic :—

Smoking is one of the finest recreations known to man. I number it amongst the virtues. I should like to see everybody smoke, and the dogs and horses in the street as well, if they could only be trained. If I had my way, all clerks and others employed in Government offices would be permitted to smoke all day. I did not advocate the use of tobacco so earnestly in former days, but I have now realised the benefit that accrues to mankind in the use of the "weed." By the way, the Tobacco Tax brought in over 17 millions last year.

YOU CAN
'COME BACK'
NOT TOO OLD AT 60.

Any man who suffers from lost strength, nervous debility, varicocele, or any weakness that saps his vitality can get back his nerve and ambition by saturating his body with a glowing current of electric life for an hour each day. Age makes no difference.

Put on the "Ajax" Body Battery and lie down (the body resistance is very low when resting), turn on the animating current of electricity, and thus pump new vim into your tired body and become a vigorous man.

The "Ajax" is a scientific device for infusing the nerves and vitals with a powerful but soothing current of electricity, without the least shock. It is beneficial to the weakest person, even where the heart is affected. It is not similar to electric belts, hand batteries, shocking coils, or other things you may have seen or used. It gives a continual current (under perfect control) without charging or preparation of any kind. It forces a cure by renewing the vitality and energy of every weak and inactive organ. Where there is plenty of electricity weakness and disease cannot exist.

We know what the "Ajax" Battery has done for others, and we believe that it will do as much for you. Our belief in it is sincere. We won't sell it unless we find, after studying your ailments, that we can cure you.

CALL OR WRITE FOR OUR FREE BOOK.

Our 80-page illustrated book about electric treatment is written in plain language, showing just how electricity cures. It contains many facts worth knowing. If you write for it at once we'll send it in a plain, sealed envelope. It doesn't cost you a penny. Call if you can. Advice free.

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Send Postcard for our Handsome Selection of Suiting Patterns cut from the cloth lengths which we are now making up into Stylish, Gentlemanly Autumn and Winter Suits. This fine exhibition of cloth samples includes the most attractive and durable designs in Tweeds, Cheviots, Worsted Serges, plain Black and Blue Vicunas, and a splendid range of hard-wearing Yorkshire Suitings at 25/- and 33/-. Graves Tailoring is for men of all ages, and wherever you live, our challenging prices and easy terms are for YOU. All approved orders are delivered carriage paid for 5/-, and balance in six monthly payments. When tried on at home, if you are disappointed with the material, style, fit, or goodness of the work, we instantly return all money paid.

5/- with order.

Send a Postcard for Patterns To-day.
With our fine display of cloth samples in your hands, you can judge for yourself the quality and durability of the materials, and you will be astonished to find how easily you may dress well on a surprisingly small outlay. 5/- in £ Cash Discount.
J. G. Graves Ltd. Sheffield.

SUITS

INSURE AGAINST TWINS.

Sample policy free. Write to-day. A letter costs you so little and may save you so much! Allen Bros. (Dept. F. L.), 14a Pepper Street, Nottingham.

DUNVILLE'S
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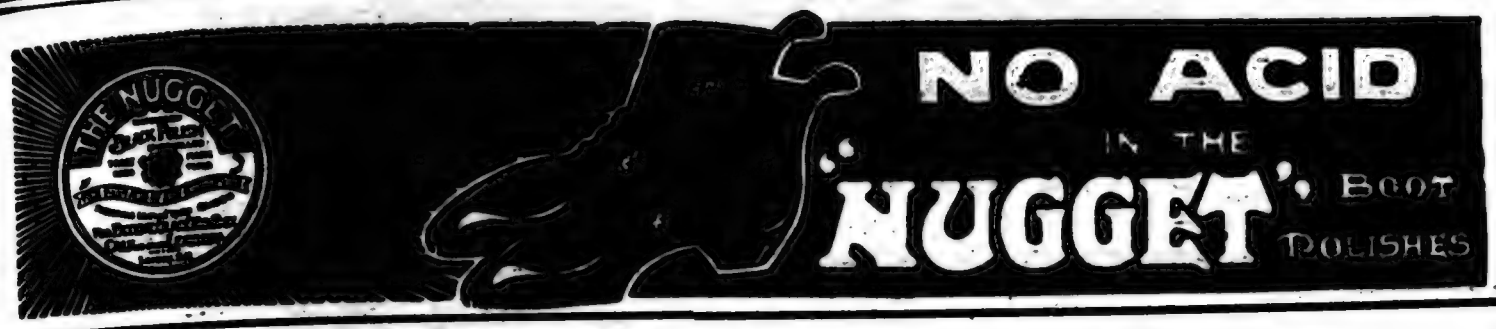
WHISKY

May be obtained from all Wine and Spirit Merchants.

In 3, 6, and 12 Bottle Cases.

Insist on seeing "BOTTLED BY DUNVILLE & CO. LTD." on the Capsule and Back label. NONE OTHER GUARANTEED GENUINE.

Write direct for name of nearest retailer to
DUNVILLE & CO. Ltd., Belfast or London.



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Hapgoods have hundreds of Special Positions open—High-Grade Technical, Clerical, Organising and Travelling Positions carrying salaries ranging from £150-£1,000 a year, but they are positions which can only be filled by men of Special Ability. If you are a man with more than average ability, and wish to realise your own true worth—write us to-day or call.

HAPGOODS, Ltd., 167-168, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

"BRAININE"

FOR NERVES AND WORRY.

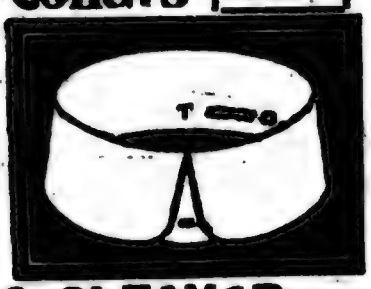
All Chemists, 1s. 1½d.

CASTLE Collars

5/11 PER DOZEN. Postage 3d. extra.

Irish made and faced with strong Linen woven in our own factory.

This shape is a typical outdoor collar, in all depths.



Sample Collar, in any shape or size, post free for six stamps.

ROBINSON & CLEAVER, LTD.
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LONDON. LIVERPOOL

THIS

is the "Permedge," the famous three-shilling razor, which is guaranteed for twelve months. But a word as to its antecedents: made from finest quality Sheffield silver steel and scientifically hollow ground.

With this to go upon you will understand that we are pretty well safe-guarded, so that we are able to offer the twelve months' guarantee referred to, which entirely protects you. Every razor is thoroughly tested before being sent out, and should any cause for complaint arise we will gladly replace the defaulting "Permedge."

It is made in three sizes:—
½ inch for Slight Beards
⅝ " " Medium "
¾ " " Strong "
Price **3/-**

THE "PERMEDGE" CAN ALSO BE HAD WITH AN IVORY HANDLE FOR 5/-

SELFRIDGE & CO., Ltd, Oxford Street, London, W.

WINNERS, AND HOW TO FIND THEM.

PRICE 2/-

No Sportsman should make an investment on the LINCOLN and NATIONAL until he has read

By CHICKWEED (Innes Barton).

A Clever Booklet showing how easy it is for every man to become his own Tipster. Press unanimous in its praise.

Mr. W. Lotinga says: "There are certain sensible remarks in the little pamphlet just issued by 'Chickweed,' entitled, 'Winners, and How to Find Them.'"

Send stamped, directed envelope for terms at once.

INNES BARTON, 13, Henrietta Street, Strand. ESTABLISHED 1900.

RORY O'MOORE will win the GRAND NATIONAL.

All remitting 5/- for Booklet will receive winner of Lincolnshire Handicap free.

All my special clients, according to my method, were given

WILLONYX for the CESAREWITCH.
LONG SET for the CAMBRIDGE.
TREPIDA for the LIVERPOOL CUP
CLARENCEUX for the DERBY CUP,

amongst numerous other Winners last season.

FOR "JOHN BULL" READERS ONLY.

TO INTRODUCE

J.B. CIGARETTES

JOHN BULL BRAND

British Manufactured for British Smokers

JOHN BULL BRAND

TWENTY-FIVE POUNDS will be awarded for a correct forecast of the goals scored in next Saturday's match, CHELSEA v. CLAPTON ORIENT, and one other match.

J.B. is the ideal cigarette for the football enthusiast, being manufactured from the very finest quality of pure, bright, stripped Virginia Tobacco. Twenty-five Pounds is offered to the readers of "John Bull" who correctly anticipate the number of goals scored by each team in next Saturday's matches, Chelsea v. Clapton Orient and Burnley v. Fulham. J.B. Cigarettes are sold in boxes of 50 for **1s. 6d.** (postage free), and each purchaser of a box is entitled to one free coupon. In case of more than one reader being correct, the prize money will be divided. The result will be published in "John Bull" next Saturday week, and the Twenty-five Sovereigns will be remitted the same day. **A Unique 18 ct. Gold Cased Horse Shoe Ring** will be presented as a consolation prize to every reader giving the correct goals scored in either match.

ORDER FORM.

I enclose Postal Order for 1/6 for One box of 50 J.B. Cigarettes and estimate that the number of goals scored by each team in the following two matches will be as follows:

CHELSEA v. CLAPTON ORIENT.		£25	BURNLEY v. FULHAM.	
No. of goals scored by CHELSEA.	No. of goals scored by CLAPTON O.		No. of goals scored by BURNLEY.	No of goals scored by FULHAM.

Name.....

Address.....

This order must be posted not later than NEXT FRIDAY to **J.B. CIGARETTE CO., 17 Goschen Buildings, Henrietta Street, London.**

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag,"* AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

F. H. I. (Manchester) has discovered a mare's nest in the extracts from the *Gibraltar Chronicle* proving that King George could not possibly have gone through a marriage ceremony with Miss Culme Seymour. Says he: "At that time H.R.H. King George V. was not Prince of Wales; the late King Edward then possessed the title." True enough, but the newspaper described his present Majesty as "H.R.H. Prince *George* of Wales."

"WORKMAN" complains that many members of the staff of the Carron Company work on Saturday afternoons, Sundays, and also during the night, for very little pay. Unfortunately, such a state of things is prevalent in many other firms.

"FROM NO. 1 A READER" (Glasgow).—Delighted with the oil painting. But your first letter apparently miscarried, and your second bears no name and address.

J. A. (Buckhaven) tells us that the enlightened inhabitants of Buckhaven, annoyed with the N.B. Rly. for having done away with a certain level crossing, held a mass meeting and passed a resolution calling upon the railway company to *erect* a subway, whereupon there was loud applause. We should think so.

R. D. (Purfleet) complains that coal is discharged at Purfleet Coal Wharf on Sundays. We will wait till the coal strike is over before we protest against this reprehensible form of Sunday labour.

G. G. S. (Battersea).—There *was* a slight error in our recent Anticipated Epitaph of the German Emperor. His sympathy for the Boers, who are now our good brothers, did not take the form of a telegram during the war, but at the time of the Jameson Raid. During the war, when our blood was up, he knew better.

L. R. (Walworth) writes to inform "Sam" (Houghton) that no letters of recommendation are needed by cancer patients at either the Middlesex Hospital, Mortimer Street, London, W., or the Cancer Hospital, Brompton Road. Patients are seen at the former at 1 o'clock on Fridays and at the latter any week-day at 1.30 p.m.

J. H. B. (Springfield, Mass.).—Glad to hear that you are determined always to remain British, although living in Yankeeland. Beware of gum chewing, else you may forget your nationality.

C. P. O. informs us that an order has been issued at Whale Island by the First Lieutenant forbidding chief petty officers to wear private clothes when ashore. It sounds arbitrary; but there may be a reason behind it of which we know nothing. In any case, the British naval uniform is something to be proud of.

W.A.D. (Shrewsbury),—and many others.—The idea of a monetary subscription amongst JOHN BULL readers is not congenial to us, much as we appreciate the generous motives which prompt it.

W. T. (Liston) asks us our definition of "a *respectable* sinner." One who has not been found out, of course.

"INSANE" (Middleton).—If your wife has contracted the unpleasant habit of throwing pots through the windows, whereby the said windows are broken, you will be held responsible for any damage she does, and may legally be served with a writ at your shop. Is she insane?

J. I. P. (Stroud).—We suppose the Danish lottery, run by Gustav Janeche, of Copenhagen, is very much like the rest of them. How often does one hear of a winning number coming to England?

G. K. (Tamworth).—We do not undertake to recommend commission agents. We know nothing about those you mention.

"SHOP ASSISTANT" (Newcastle-on-Tyne) calls us over the coals for speaking disparagingly of shop assistants. We have never done so consciously. But when one correspondent with fourteen years' experience tells us he has never heard of a shop assistant who received his wages during sickness, and another correspondent, with equal experience, tells us he has never heard of a shop assistant who did *not* receive his wages in such circumstances, well, it makes us wonder where we are, and who is the—fibber.

W. C. (Birkenhead).—We do not think the old rhyme for inculcating the Rule of the Road can be improved upon:

The Rule of the Road is a paradox quite,
To explain it will not take us long,
If you keep to the left you are sure to be right,
If you keep to the right you are wrong.

S. A. B. (Dunmow) tells us he possesses JOHN BULL from No. 1 to date. So do we.

A. J. G. (London, W.).—Arneway's Trust, on the face of it, is a genuine charity; but we have no personal knowledge of its working.

L. W. (Hampstead, N.W.).—Charles Kiss and Co., of Budapest, is the sort of kiss we would particularly warn you against. As for the Royal Hungarian Lottery—Pff!

Miss E. M. S. (Cheltenham).—We hear there have been over 100,000 applications for posts under the Insurance Act. This may explain why you received no reply from the Secretary to the National Insurance Commissioners—for what is one amongst so many?

D. M. (London, N.).—We cannot help you to place your "toilet articles" on the market, except by publishing your advertisement at the usual rates. So you have produced an "absolutely reliable hair renewer." How proud you must feel! You will need no monument now.

E. E. K. (Beccles) sends us an advertisement cut from the *East Suffolk Gazette*, announcing that the Domestic Wholesale Supply Association, of East Ham, will forward "a superior parcel, nicely packed, suitable for bedding presents, etc., 3s. 6d." Amateur gardeners, please note.

T. H. B. (Leytonstone) takes us to task for placing Miss Marie Corelli amongst the men in one of our recent Symposiums. So long as Miss Corelli does not object, we don't see why T. B. H. should. Would he object if we put him amongst the girls?

J. C. (Liverpool).—We know nothing about the Albion Agency, Sion, Switzerland.

O. S. (Builth Wells).—Practically every week we find it necessary to state that tickets for the Calcutta Derby Sweepstake can now be obtained only by or through members of the Calcutta Turf Club. Thanks for your expressions of sympathy. We find it constitutionally impossible to be downhearted.

Miss B. (Dublin).—We can tell you nothing about the Provident Clothing and Supply Co., Ltd., of 82, Godwin Street, Bradford, Yorkshire, of which J. K. Waddilove is the Governing Director.

"A READER OF HUMAN NATURE" (Harlesden) asks us to remind our readers not to forget the sparrows during the winter. A pennyworth of wheat soaked in a little sugar and water has a very stimulating effect upon their vocal organs, he says. We have often heard them calling "weet."

A. H. (Falmouth).—Commercial travellers are, on the whole, a fine body of intelligent men, but when you suggest that they are squeamish in the matter of "fairy tales" you make us smile. Why, one night at a Manchester hotel——.

W. V. B. (Farnborough) wants to know whether there is anyone in the world who would like his collection of JOHN BULLS covering the last two or three years. He will pay the carriage by rail. Now, don't all speak at once.

J. M. P. (Manchester) states that a friend of his, "an impartial German citizen," declares that if Germany is permitted to build the Dreadnoughts she desires, war with England will be a certainty by 1918. All the more reason to ask "Why not stop Germany *now?*"

MRS. A. K. (York) writes:—"May I suggest that the cause of Woman's Suffrage should be made a subject of prayer amongst all those who are anxious to see justice done to women?" We have no objection. When half bricks fail, there is nothing to do but trust in Providence.

T. W. (Lemington-on-Tyne).—We do not know with whom Jane Ann has eloped, but it was most certainly not with our Tame Phrenologist, whose bump of *Amativeness* is missing. Perhaps she went off with Jim Crow. He was always partial to pretty servant girls.

J. W. N. F. (Forfarshire) wants to know "whether a firm can call themselves Ink *Manufacturers* if they buy the powder and mix it into writing ink themselves." What else would he call them—Ink Mixers?

A. P. R. (Buluwayo) tells us "Rhodesia is a hotbed of foul Freemasonry and unless you join their villainous sect you have no chance of promotion in any of the walks of life." When one is in Rome (or Rhodesia) it is best to do as the Romans (or Rhodesians) do, we suppose.

"BLACK CAT."—We know nothing about the Melbourne Derby Sweepstake, and hope we are not going to receive as many inquiries about it as we did concerning the Calcutta Derby sweep.

R. W. (Remscheid).—Sorry you did not enjoy the unpalatable truths contained in our recent article, "Why not stop Germany *now?*" but when you say "no sane person is taking anything published in JOHN BULL seriously," you are not kind to yourself.

"A BULL DOG" (London, E.C.) suggests that it would be a good idea to boycott everything from Germany until Mr. Stewart is released. We would prefer even more drastic action than that.

W. R. says that "has a London Territorial i think our country is lacking in all things." It is certainly lacking in grammar.

[*We are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.*]

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BULL'S EYES.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—
Wouldn't an "o-mission" to Germany have been better?
Isn't "G., K.G." a better "onler" than "G. M. G." (Grey Must Go)?
Did the Treasury require a "Master-man whitewasher"?
Doesn't Earl Spencer still call him "Dear" Old Charlie?
Will the Insurance Act be a "physical" impossibility?
Isn't it time *our* War Office began to "look up"?
Aren't the Australians getting more "outings" than "innings"?
Will a rise in bread be a "light" matter?
Is the Road Board a committee of "ways and means"?
Is "*Two* Wrongs make a Right" the best solution of the Censor problem?
Won't "squeezing" Orangemen mean the "deuce"?

The hotel to be used as the head offices of the Insurance Commissioners contains 200 bedrooms. They will be useless if the doctors make the Government sit up.

The L.C.C. suggests a school for waiters. It will make them proficient to their finger-tips, we suppose.

"Potsdam Socialists," says a heading. They usually do.

The news that The Jam will probably play for England in the summer must be a nasty jar for our opponents.

Early Closing won a race at Lingfield. Won sharp, of course.

The Emperor of China is to be allowed a pension. But it won't be a crown.

Judge Rentoul thinks that deported aliens should have some identification marks. We suggest taking a bit off their cheek.

A man at Bradford is suffering from giant's disease. We hope he is not growing worse.

Chester Town Council have adopted a plan for harnessing the waters of the River Dee for generating electricity. The Dee should be just the thing for blue fire.

Mr. Bonar Law's description of the Government as "Gadarene swine" we suppose, was an attempt at pawky humour.

"Castle for £39," we read. But Windsor was built for a Sovereign.

A Chicago professor calls indigestion "a pessimistic stomach." We presume he would call a corn hop-toe-mistic.

A clergyman suggests that as soon as a man is married a small hole should be punched in the lobe of his left ear. Too many get their heads punched already.

A correspondent suggests that railway companies should reserve compartments for talkers only. Perhaps he would also like the porter to ring a dumb-bell.

"Six-Mile-Bottom, near Newmarket, is an extensive seat," we read. We agree.

Heading: "Ten days' grace for the Thames Ironworks." For what they are about to receive, we hope.

Mr. H. T. Cadbury has married a Miss Bellows. We hope she will never blow him up.

The *Express* has been offering £100 for a title. Many an actress gets one for nothing.

A SAD CASE.

"I've got the gravel," the old man said,
As he stood at the hospital porter's shed;
And the burly porter led the way
To the doctor's quarters straight away.

"I've got the gravel," the old man said.
But the kindly doctor shook his head.
"Doctor James must attend to you,
For to-day I've more than I can do."

"I've got the gravel," the old man said.
Said Doctor James, "Get this man to bed.
Let him have rest, and now and again
Keep up his strength with iced champagne."

"I've got the gravel," the old man said
To the nurse, as she tucked him up in bed.
And he thought it the rummest go he'd struck,
As he cuddled up and blessed his luck.

"I've *brought* the gravel," the old man said,
As they sharpened the knives around his bed.
"An' axin' your parding, as time is sharrt,
It's time I was back with me 'orse an' cart."

T. A. C.

BOOTS
Regulators

A new Non-secret Popular Remedy in Tablet Form for Regulating the System and Preventing Constipation.

BOOTS CASH CHEMISTS are introducing under the name of BOOTS REGULATORS a remedy for Constipation, the active ingredient of which is Phenolphthalein. Although known to medical men and progressive chemists, it has hitherto been mostly sold under various fancy names and at high prices.

In America a precisely similar preparation has been largely advertised and lauded as "A Veritable Gem" and "A Treasure of Untold Value" in the treatment of Chronic Constipation, but at THREE TIMES THE PRICE charged by BOOTS.

Without wishing to use extravagant language, BOOTS would strongly recommend the tablets as one of the mildest aperients known; they are not drastic in action. All sufferers from Constipation derive benefits from a change of medicines—most laxatives losing somewhat of their effect after a time, and the change from other medicines will be found most salutary.

BOOTS REGULATORS can only be obtained at all their branches or by post from the Laboratories, Nottingham.

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Name .....

Address (in full) .....

.....

State whether Mr., Mrs., or Miss .....

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

"The Easiest Way."

What does Laura Murdock care what she does, so long as her wants are satisfied? Not for an instant does this pretty, brainless creature stop to think before she throws over Willard Brockton, with whom she has been living a life of "gilded infamy," because John Madison, an honest but poor journalist, offers her marriage, John knowing full well the relationship between Brockton and the woman he desires to make his wife. "And how are you going to provide for her?" asks Mr. Brockton. "She's wanted for nothing with me; she's not the sort to face poverty! Go to Colorado and work for her, but meanwhile—eh? Well, I wish you luck, old man, only I'm just making it plain to you, and I tell you she'll come back to me. I know her; you think you do, too. I'll clear, and give you the chance of finding out." Laura swears to keep on the square, and wait for Madison. Brockton, in his turn, vows to let Madison know if ever she returns to him again; the two men shake hands. After leaving her former lover, in the most cold-blooded manner, Laura discovers that it is his influence, and not her talent, which led to her engagements on the stage, and it doesn't require much persuasion on Brockton's part for her to return to the "Easiest Way." A stroke of luck makes Madison a wealthy man. The tender-hearted fellow cables to his *fiancee*, telling her he wishes to be married right away. With the bed in the alcove still as it was when Brockton and his mistress left it in the morning, Laura prepares to meet Madison and marry him that same afternoon. Madison asks her it she has "been on the level with him" since they parted. Laura looks him straight in the face and replies, "Yes, John, I've been on the dead level." The door opens, and Brockton slowly enters. He takes off his overcoat, and shows unmistakably that the place belongs to him. Madison's laugh of happiness changes to one of contempt, and both men leave the graceless wretch to herself. Does she repent? Not much. She merely calls for her maid to trick her out in her finest clothes, and goes off to Rector's Restaurant to find another toy to play with. Sweetly feminine, isn't it? Why, the charms of all the graces, and the art of an Aimée Desclée, couldn't make such an unpalatable person sympathetic. Miss Sarah Brooke tries her hardest to gain compassion, but, unfortunately, the powerful individuality of the actress is against her, so it remains with Mr. Guy Standing as Willard Brockton, Godfrey Tearle as John Madison, Laura Nelson Hall as Elfie St. Clair, and Violet Rand as the coloured servant Annie, to make the success of Eugene Walter's powerful drama. As far as the men are concerned, two more magnificent stage studies could not possibly be found, and Mr. Standing and Godfrey Tearl are each superbly definite in situations that might jar somewhat if they were not so carefully acted.

The John Bull League.

Birmingham.—A highly successful smoking concert was held at the White Horse Hotel, Congreve Street, on February 2nd and a splendid programme was provided by the following talented artistes: Misses Leah Pinnick, Becky Pinnick, Winnie Adams, and Lillie Newman; Messrs. Job Cooper, Evan T. Jones, A. E. Smith, J. R. Linder, Sidney Albert, Harry Crisp, Cyril Alan, Harry Smart, Harry Lawrence, Jeff. Gregory, Jesmond Dene, George King, J. H. Nicholson, and Mr. Owen, Mus.Bac., A.R.C.O. The branch also held an enjoyable whist drive on February 14th, which was well attended.

Aberdeen.—A very successful whist drive was held by this branch on Monday, February 12th, and there was a large attendance of both ladies and gentlemen. The Local Chairman, Mr. C. R. Sibley, presided at the supper which followed the whist drive and preceded the concert to which the following artistes contributed: Misses Mabel Gordon and F. M. Gibson; Messrs. Shewan, Jas. Chalmers, R. W. Murchie and George Buthlay. The attention of members is directed to the arrangements which have been made with Mr. Gilbert, the popular manager of the Tivoli Music Hall, for a John Bull League Night on Wednesday, February 28th. On this occasion the League Song will be rendered.

Liverpool.—This branch held a Cinderella on February 14th, which was much enjoyed by those present, and will hold another of its popular whist drives on Monday evening next

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5 to 2—4 Home Teams, etc., etc.

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Louis design mahogany bedroom suite, 28 guineas; 6 ft. walnut bedroom suite, 40 guineas; 7 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, with bow front to wardrobe, 60 guineas; 7 ft. satinwood bedroom suite, 10 guineas; several inlaid chests from 50s.; 6 ft. walnut wardrobe, 15 guineas; 6 ft. 6 in. mahogany wardrobe, fitted drawers and trays, 12 guineas; several iron bedsteads from 9s.; black and brass bedsteads, 10s.; full-size black and brass bedsteads, with wire springs, 21s.; 9 oak bedsteads, 15s.; pair brass twin bedsteads, 5 guineas; pair white and brass twin bedsteads, 3 guineas; inlaid Sheraton bedstead, including wire spring mattress, £3 15s.; full-size all-brass bedstead, 60s.; pair mohogany twin bedsteads, £2 19s. 6d.; full-size all-brass square tube Italian bedstead, 8 guineas; and several others up to 18 guineas. The DINING ROOM FURNITURE comprises fumed oak dining-room suite, consisting of large size sideboard, 6 chairs, 2 carving chairs, overmantel, dining table, rug, &c., will accept £13 7s. 6d. the lot; most massive carved oak Elizabethan design dining-room set, consisting of sideboard with bevelled plate-glass back, oxidised copper fittings, fitted cellarette, 6 massive carved oak chairs, and 2 carving chairs to match, dining table, 16 guineas the set; a similar set, with large sideboard and 2 lounge easy chairs, upholstered in red leather, 25 guineas; magnificent oak dining-room suite, £8 15s.; oak suite in green pegamoid, £3 19s. 6d.; sideboard to match, 4 guineas; overmantel, 30s.; Queen Anne design dining-room suite, £5 15s.; sideboard to match, £7 15s.; dining table, £2 15s.; handsome Queen Anne design mahogany dining-room set, upholstered in red leather, £7 19s. 6d.; dining-table to match, 4 guineas; Chippendale design set of chairs, ball and claw feet, exquisite design, 12 guineas; oak, walnut and mahogany sideboards, large variety in stock, from £4 10s. to 40 guineas; about 50 odd dining-room chairs; 20 dining tables, from 21s.; oak bureau, 21s.; pedestal writing tables; roll top desks, all sizes; revolving bookcases; a most superb Chesterfield, and 2 large club easy chairs to match in green leather, £15 10s.; mahogany secretaire bookcase, enclosed by 2 glass doors, cupboards, under 8 guineas. The DRAWING-ROOM FURNITURE comprises very fine, drawing-room suite, upholstered in art tapestry, £3 10s.; another design suite, £6 10s.; satinwood finish drawing-room suite, 7 guineas; an elegant design Louis XIV. gilt drawing-room suite, £19 10s.; another set, similar design, 14 guineas; Chesterfield drawing-room suite with 2 large lounge easy chairs, and 4 solid mahogany chairs, most exquisite design, £12 19s. 6d.; large size double sprung Chesterfield and 2 large easy chairs to match, covered in silk tapestry, 22 guineas; set of Dutch Marqueterie chairs, 14 guineas; handsome design Vernis Marten cabinet, 16 guineas; another, 12 guineas; Buhl cabinet, 11 guineas; another, 14 guineas; table *en suite*, 8 guineas; Chesterfields from £3 10s. to 10 guineas; Chippendale design cabinet, £2 19s. 6d.; similar one, £5 15s.; Sheraton design cabinet, £3 15s.; Sheraton design specimen table, 50s.; occasional tables from 12s. 6d.; occasional chairs, 50 in stock, from 6s. 6d.; 2 white enamel overmantels, 18s. 6d. and 27s. 6d.; oval gilt table, 10 guineas; pair 9-light candelabra, 6 guineas; 5-light candelabra, 10 guineas; clock in ormolu case, £8 15s.; piano, 8 guineas; an upright piano, iron frame, £12 15s.; ditto by Carl Strauss, 20 guineas; and several others in stock up to 40 guineas; grand pianos by Steinway, Bechstein, Blüthner, &c. Large stock of carpets, Tapestry, Mirzapore, Turkey and Oriental carpets and rugs to match, from 18s. 6d.; a large variety of Axminster and Wilton carpets, always in stock, from £2 15s. HALL FURNITURE: Hall stands from 20s.; hall cupboard, 3 guineas; large quantity of electro-plate, china, cutlery, kitchen utensils, curtains, bed and table linen, &c.

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LOTINGA'S WEEKLY.

Every Wednesday. *One Penny.*

RACING NOTES.

By W. Lotinga.

[" *Larry Lynx* " *of* The People, " *Double U. L.*" *of* Lotinga's Weekly, *and* " *Maggie* " *of* The Globe.]

Prophetic.

It is policy to wait for the week-end before betting, for Newbury certainly suggests that Cannock Lad has a chance in one of his races, while after his experience upon her at Hurst Park, Capt. Springfield might win the United Services Cup on Flaxen, who does her best on this course. Of course, Sweet Cecil will win the Newbury Steeplechase on Saturday; Tibet Chief, if saddled, the Selling Plate, and Foolhardy the Hunters' Cup, as last year. Hurst Park really influences the card, for Carsey ought to gain the Grand National Trial Steeplechase, while dependent upon what has happened in the meantime, if Flying Lorus is unpenalised, I should not miss him in the Squire's Handicap at Blackpool.

FOOTBALL SELECTIONS.

By "McW."

What with Cup Ties and League games, the football fare on Saturday, February 24th, is splendidly diversified. Accordingly I am varying my selections a little by giving you my anticipations in all the Cup games and my customary probables and possibles in the League matches.

The winning teams in the Cup Ties should eventually be Bradford City, Fulham, Everton, Bolton, Sunderland, Blackburn, Swindon and Reading.

League Probables.

Notts County.	Hull.
Sheffield Wednesday.	Plymouth.
Clapton Orient.	Crystal Palace.
Huddersfield.	Norwich.
Chelsea.	

League Possibles.

Bury.	Birmingham.
Glossop.	Queen's P. R.
Cardiff.	Ton Pentre.

The heavy scoring games on Saturday, March 2nd, may turn out to be Aston Villa v. Bury, Wolves v. Glossop, Swindon v. Exeter.

OUR THOUSAND POUND FOOTBALL COMPETITION. NO. 6.

TWENTY-FIVE GUINEAS EACH WON BY LEEDS AND FOREST GATE READERS.

No less than six hundred claims were sent in for the Consolation Prize of No. 6 Football Competition, and our thousand pounds prize was very nearly won. **THE FIFTY GUINEAS** has been divided between

Mrs. H. Spence, of 64, Troy Mount, Morley, Leeds, and

Mr. F. Austin, 54, Avenue Road, Forest Gate,

each of whom selected the six winning teams, and gave the actual number of goals scored in three instances. Other competitors claimed to have sent in coupons nearer the actual scoring than the two above-mentioned winners. These were Mr. B. Wellington, of West Ealing, who states that he gave the actual scores made by five out of the six teams; and Mr. George Ridley, of Bardon Mill, Northumberland, and Mr. Knight of Gravesend, who claim to be correct in four instances; but after a most careful scrutiny no coupons corresponding to their claims could be discovered.

THE SAFE MAN WHO GIVES THE BEST TERMS AND SATISFACTION.

C. H. STAPLETON

9, 11, 13 & 15, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.

Write in confidence, stating weekly credit required.

Football!

Established 16 Years.

WHITE, FISHER & CO., The World's Premier Football Accountants.

BASLE, SWITZERLAND,

beg to announce that

GIGANTIC PRIZES

ARE BEING WON WEEKLY.

You must apply at once if you wish to be listed this season. Over £10,000 paid away to clients during December alone. Nothing barred in the four leagues or Cup. Don't wait for coupons, write your selections on plain paper. Good prices returned. Postage 2½d. Letters must bear a 2 p.m. postmark at the latest. Not less than four home teams accepted. Note what the papers say:—

Football Chat, November 22, says:—" Established firms of repute such as Messrs. White, Fisher, & Co. conduct their business with a scrupulous fairness and impartiality that could well provide an object lesson to many commercial houses."

The Editor of the Racing Judge, October 7th, says:—" A friend tells us that one of the sights of Basle, Switzerland, is the arrival of White, Fisher & Co.'s mail every Sunday."

'FOOTBALL.'

Do your Business with

W. & A. FOX,

Football Accountants,

BASLE, SWITZERLAND.

Lotinga's Weekly.—This firm has established itself as reliable, and their terms are both liberal and fair to both parties.

FREE! FREE!!

Silver-Plated Cigarette Lighters

GIVEN AWAY EVERY WEEK

Absolutely Free.

1d. Postcard will bring you Full Particulars.

HARRY APPLETON the man who always pays.

BASLE 2, SWITZERLAND.

Has no connection whatsoever with any firm trading under similar name. Write for my usual unique terms.

£100 FREE PRIZE OFFERED WEEKLY.

Postcards 1d. Letters 2½d.

FOOTBALL

THE SPORTSMAN, July 14th, 1911, says:—" BERT FRY, one of the best-known of the Flushing Turf Accountants, has removed his offices to Basle, Switzerland."

BERT FRY, BASLE 2, SWITZERLAND.

"JOHN BULL" says: "Every week we are inundated with complaints from people who have been defrauded by bogus football accountants. To a very great extent it serves them right, as, instead of accepting fictitious odds offered them by strangers, they could entrust their business to a reliable firm, like that of Bert Fry, and be sure of receiving their winnings."

Special Half-Time Sheet. £50 Free Prize Weekly.

Free Postage.

Free Postage. Free Postage.

FOOTBALL!

Were you welshed on Dec. 9th or Dec. 30th? If so make certain of not being welshed again and entrust your business to

H. HAMILTON & CO.,

The Oldest Established Football Accountants in the World.

What the Press says of us:—

Lotinga's Weekly for Dec. 30th, 1911, says:—

"It is absolutely the punter's own fault if he is now welshed at Football betting when there are such firms as H. HAMILTON & CO. transacting business on Football."

Send a postcard (postage 1d.) for the most liberal price list issued.

£25 *FREE OFFER open to all Clients.*

H. HAMILTON & Co., Basle, Switzerland.

BIG £1,000 LINCOLNSHIRE AND NATIONAL "DOUBLE." "THE RACING STUD" (Estd. 1900). Praised by L. Lynx, of the "PEOPLE," "JOHN BULL," "SP. LIFE," &c. The "RACING WORLD" says:—"The Racing Stud have had a remarkable run of big successes for years past." Don't forget our "big" surprise, GLENSIDE, for "Nat," 1911, and many other "big" sensations. We have special "inside" advice for the L. and N. "DOUBLE." RACES AT THEIR MERCY. Act before markets dry "up." Send stamped address The "RACING STUD," High Road, Turnham Green, W.

£2,000 TWO COMPETITIONS £2,000

No Entrance Fee—Fifty Pounds awarded each week.

N.B.—A Voucher from Page One of Cover must accompany each Coupon.

You may enter the £1,000 COMPETITION FOR THREE RESULTS, or our other £1,000 COMPETITION FOR CORRECT FORECAST, or you may enter both, but remember this, a Voucher from the first page of the cover of this issue MUST accompany each coupon. One Voucher will not suffice for any two coupons. For each and every coupon you send in you must enclose with same a Voucher. Any competitor not complying with this condition will be disqualified.

Many readers have written to say that they object to putting their name and address on the back of their envelopes. Accordingly in future a *nom de plume* will suffice, provided that when claims are sent in competitors will let us know the *nom de plume* they have adopted. Your name and address need not in future be given.

In our £1,000 Competition for Three Results all that you have to do is to state which two clubs in Column One competing against each other, which two clubs in Column Two, and which two in Column Three will between them score the greatest number of goals, and give the actual scores.

If your estimate is the only correct one you will receive £1,000 for your skill. If your estimate proves to be the one most nearly accurate

You Must Win £25.

In the corresponding matches last season the clubs totalling the greatest number of goals between them, and the goals each club actually scored, were as follows:—

ASTON VILLA ... 4 v. BURY	... 1	Total Goals 5
DERBY COUNTY 4 v. BRADFORD	2	„ „ 6
COVENTRY ... 6 v. PLYMOUTH	1	„ „ 7

If the results proved to be the same on Saturday, March 2nd, and your coupon showed these correct results you would be £1,000 in pocket unless some other competitor tied with you. Were your forecast, although not absolutely correct, the nearest to the correct results, you would win the Prize of Twenty-Five Pounds.

If you are looking for guidance, let us recommend to you the views of the great Football Writer and Expert, "McW.," who contributes "Football Favourites" in another column. Each week, too, you will find "Football Fancies" in "Lotinga's Weekly."

Do not run away with the idea that we do not wish you to win the Mammoth Prize:

The sooner the £1,000 is won the better pleased we shall be.

We realise its advertising value.

Remember, in conclusion, that you must select clubs actually competing against each other on Saturday, March 2nd.

No. 9. THREE RESULTS £1,000.

COUPON FOR MATCHES TO BE PLAYED SATURDAY, MARCH 2nd.

The two opposing clubs in Column One, the two in Column Two, and the two in Column Three which, between them, will total the largest number of goals and the goals which each will score will be as follows:—

ENGLISH LEAGUE (Div. I.)	Goals.		Goals.
SHEFFIELD U.	.....	v. BLACKBURN R.	.....
OLDHAM A.	.....	v. SUNDERLAND	.....
BOLTON W.	.....	v. W. BROMWICH	.....
BRADFORD CITY	.....	v. EVERTON	.....
WOOLWICH A.	.....	v. MANCHESTER C.	.....
MANCHESTER U.	.....	v. NOTTS. CO.	.....
LIVERPOOL	.....	v. MIDDLESBRO'	.....
ASTON VILLA	.....	v. BURY	.....
NEWCASTLE U.	.....	v. SHEFFIELD W.	.....
PRESTON N.E.	.....	v. TOTTENHAM H.	.....

ENGLISH LEAGUE (Div. II.).	Goals.		Goals.
LEICESTER F.	.....	v. BLACKPOOL	.....
GAINSBORO'	.....	v. HUD'FIELD T.	.....
GRIMSBY	.....	v. BIRMINGHAM	.....
NOTTS FOREST	.....	v. BRISTOL CITY	.....
CHELSEA	.....	v. CLAPTON O.	.....
DERBY COUNTY	.....	v. BRADFORD	.....
STOCKPORT CO.	.....	v. BARNSLEY	.....
LEEDS CITY	.....	v. HULL CITY	.....
WOLVER'TON W.	.....	v. GLOSSOP	.....
BURNLEY	.....	v. FULHAM	.....

SOUTHERN LEAGUE (Div. I.).	Goals.		Goals.
BRIGHTON	.....	v. WATFORD	.....
STOKE	.....	v. READING	.....
COVENTRY CITY	.....	v. PLYMOUTH	.....
LEYTON	.....	v. SOUTH'PTON	.....
NORWICH C.	.....	v. CRYSTAL P.	.....
WEST HAM U.	.....	v. QUEEN'S P. R.	.....
BRISTOL R.	.....	v. BRENTFORD	.....
SWINDON	.....	v. EXETER	.....
NORTHAMPTON	.....	v. N. BROMPTON	.....
LUTON	.....	v. MILLWALL	.....

I agree to abide by the decision published in JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly" and I enter this Competition on that clear understanding.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Should no one succeed in estimating all the particulars correctly, then £25 will be awarded each and every week to the competitor whose estimate is most nearly correct. In the event of a tie the £25 will be divided.

CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED IN BOTH COMPETITIONS.

1. The decision published in JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly" must be accepted as final and legally binding, and you enter only on that clear understanding.
2. Your estimate must be written only on a JOHN BULL Coupon, or on the Coupon to be found in "Lotinga's Weekly," and a voucher from one of these papers must accompany each coupon.
3. £1,000 will be awarded in each competition to the competitor (or competitors) sending an absolutely correct estimate. If no competitor is absolutely correct in his coupon, £25 will be given in each competition to the competitor whose estimate is most nearly correct. In the event of a tie the Prize will be divided.
4. JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly" will not accept any responsibility whatever in the matter of the non-delivery or delay of any attempt submitted.
5. All correspondence in the matter of the conduct of these competitions will be ignored.
6. Readers in Scotland are precluded from taking part in our Football Competitions owing to the attitude of their Law officers.
7. All competitors claiming prizes must send in their claims by the Thursday following the matches played.
8. All competitors must put the name and number or letter of the competition on the top left-hand corner of the front of the envelope containing coupons or claims, and their names or "noms de plume" only must be distinctly written on the back of the envelope.
9. Competitors sending in claims must forward copy of coupons to which their claims refer.
10. When two or more matches in the same League result in an equal number of goals, then the match including the team highest on the League table the previous Saturday will count in the Three Results Competition.
11. Coupons and vouchers for both Competitions may be sent in the same envelope.

Mark your envelopes "Football" and post your attempts so that they reach JOHN BULL, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C., not later than mid-day on Thursday, February 29th next.

A £1,000 FOOTBALL FORECAST A

COUPON FOR MATCHES

(No Entrance Fee.) **TO BE PLAYED SATURDAY, MARCH 2nd.** **(No Entrance Fee.)**

(Cross out in ink the club which you think will lose. Where you anticipate a draw do not cross out either.)

BOLTON W.	v. W. BROMWICH A.	CHELSEA	v. CLAPTON ORIENT	BRISTOL ROVERS	v. BRENTFORD
BRADFORD CITY	v. EVERTON	GAINSBOROUGH	v. HUDDERSFIELD	COVENTRY	v. PLYMOUTH
LIVERPOOL	v. MIDDLESBRO'	LEEDS	v. HULL	LEYTON	v. SOUTHAMPTON
MANCHESTER U.	v. NOTTS COUNTY.	LEICESTER FOSSE	v. BLACKPOOL	LUTON	v. MILLWALL
NEWCASTLE U.	v. SHEFFIELD W.	NOTTS FOREST	v. BRISTOL CITY	NORWICH	v. CRYSTAL PALACE
OLDHAM	v. SUNDERLAND	STOCKPORT	v. BARNSLEY	STOKE	v. READING
PRESTON N. E.	v. TOTTENHAM H.	A Voucher Must Accompany each Coupon.		WEST HAM	v. QUEEN'S P. RANGERS

I agree to abide by the decision published in JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly," and I enter this Competition on that clear understanding.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Should no one give all the correct results, £25 will be awarded each and every week to the competitor whose estimate is most nearly accurate. In the event of a tie the £25 will be divided.

See page 264 for Result of Competition No. 6.

SOUND ADVICE.

"What shall I give her?"

"BEECHAM'S PILLS!"

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